

OFFICIAL

Flying Start for kids



Getting Started: Eligibility and Family Communications

Acknowledgement of Country

From the heart:

We acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples as the First peoples of South Australia and as custodians of the lands, waters, skies and communities where we live, learn and raise children.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples as having the longest living culture, raising children safe and strong in their Identity, Community, Culture, and connection to Country.

We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present, and their role as the first knowledge sharers for children. We follow in their footsteps.

Aboriginal peoples, working with and for children, are central in shaping our work. Their wisdom, advice, and guidance enriches our practices, creating a more inclusive and culturally safe environment for children and families.

We respect Aboriginal peoples' ways of being, doing and wise practices guiding our continual learning.

Together we walk and build stronger, more supportive communities for all children.



By the end of today's session



You'll gain practical information to:

- Identify eligible children and understand the importance of intended school start date.
- Engage families and promote Flying Start preschool participation with the support of ready-to-use resources.



General child eligibility



There are different types of child eligibility to keep in mind when identifying potential children for 3-year-old preschool:

- Service eligibility – ensure the child is eligible for funding at your service.
- Age – ensure the child is the correct age to enroll in the preschool program.
- School start date – will the child be starting Reception within the next 2 years?

When can children start preschool



- Children can access **up to 8 terms** of funded preschool in the **two years before starting school**.
- 3-year-old preschool start date should be based on when children are **likely to start school**.
- An **age calculator** is available on the OECD's website to help identify when children can start preschool.



Where can children access preschool

- Children already **attending a Flying Start partner long day care service** will be eligible to receive their 3-year-old preschool program **at that service**.
- Children who are **not currently enrolled in a long day service that is delivering Flying Start preschool**, can enrol in partner long day care service, or at a government or non-government sessional preschool service offering 3-year-old preschool – provided it is available in their area or region.
- Age and setting eligibility for 4-year-old preschool remains the same.

Age eligibility and intended school start date



Scenario: A child has a date of birth of 12 July 2023 and has enrolled to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 3 2026 and is starting Reception in Term 3 2028.

Eligible: The child is eligible to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 3 2026.

Scenario: A child has a date of birth of 23 January 2024 and has enrolled to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 1 2027, and is starting Reception in Term 1 2029.

Eligible: The child is eligible to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 1 2027.

Scenario: A child's date of birth is 5 June 2024, and they have enrolled to start preschool in Term 1 2027.

Not eligible: The child is too young, based on their date of birth, to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 1 2027 but would be able to start in Term 3 2027.

Scenario: A child's date of birth is 2 December 2023, and they have enrolled to start preschool in Term 3 2026.

Not eligible: The child is too young, based on their date of birth, to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 3 2026 but would be able to start in Term 1 2027.

Age and intended school start date



Scenario: A child has a date of birth 10 February 2023 and has enrolled to start preschool in Term 1 2027. Their parents are intending to start Reception in Term 1 2029 just before they turn 6.

Eligible for 3-year-old preschool: While the child will be 4-years-old when they start preschool, due to the child starting Reception in Term 1 2029, the child will be in the two years before full time school / 3-year-old preschool in 2027.

Age and intended school start date



Scenario: A child has a date of birth 30 March 2024 and is eligible to start preschool in Term 1 2027. However, their parents are planning to start the child in school mid-year in Term 3, 2029.

Not eligible: While the child's date of birth makes them eligible to start 3-year-old preschool in Term 1 2027, the intended school start date of Term 3 2029 means the child is not within 2 years before full time school and ineligible.

In this scenario the child would be eligible to start funded 3-year-old preschool in Term 3 2027, to receive 8 terms of preschool in the 2 years before school.



Encouraging participation

Practical tips

- Review your current and upcoming service enrolments to identify eligible children.
- Contact families early and explain the benefits of participation.
- Make the Declaration and Consent form easy for families to access and complete.
- Follow up with families who have not returned forms.
- Display Flying Start promotional materials prominently and use available resources to encourage family participation.
- Encourage families to access the age calculator available on the OECD's website to help identify when children can start preschool.
- Invite families early to attend upcoming information sessions delivered with support from your Local Team.
- Every enrolment matters. Services receive Flying Start funding for each eligible child enrolled in the program.

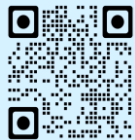
Reminder - key messages for families



- Flying Start funding enables eligible children to access high quality teacher-led, play-based preschool from age 3.
- The early years matter, with 90% of brain development occurring before age five.
- Evidence shows that starting preschool at age 3 and continuing for 2 years boosts children's development and builds foundational lifelong skills.
- The program is delivered as part of children's usual day at their service.
- The program includes access to extra support, such as speech pathology and occupational therapy, delivered to children in a group setting within their preschool room.
- Extra supports are also available for families to support their child's development at home.
- There is no cost for families to participate in Flying Start.

Family communication resources

- A range of ready-to-use resources are available to help services communicate the benefits of Flying Start preschool.
- Resources include a family guide, and explainer video outlining how Flying Start works and its benefits for children.
- All resources can be accessed via the Flying Start Partner Page.



Flying Start
for kids

A guide for families

Your child's early childhood education and care service is partnering with the South Australian Government to deliver Flying Start 3-year-old preschool. This is part of a \$1.9 billion investment into early childhood education so every child can have a flying start in life.

 Government of South Australia

flyingstart.sa.gov.au

The poster features a young child in a yellow shirt and tan pants, running joyfully while carrying a large cardboard box on their back. The box has the Flying Start logo on it. The background is a light blue gradient with yellow motion lines around the child. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font.



Family support resources

Resources are also available via the Flying Start partner page to support services and families in enrolling their child. These include:

- Family participation support pack and checklist
- 3-year-old declaration and consent form
- 4-year-old declaration and consent form.



What's next?

- Continue to promote the benefits and availability of 3- and 4-year-old preschool to your families and communities.
- Host family information sessions delivered with support from Local Teams.
- OECD Local Teams will continue to engage with you to support your readiness to implement Flying Start preschool.



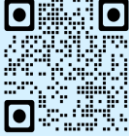


For more information

Please email the Funding and Monitoring team at:

OECD.PreschoolFunding@sa.gov.au or visit the OECD

website: **www.earlychildhood.sa.gov.au**

Stay informed and connected

- Visit the Flying Start Partner Page for key information, and resources to support you in delivering Flying Start Preschool.
- Password: FlyingStart! 
- Stay up to date with our fortnightly Flying Start partners e-bulletin, delivered straight to your inbox.
- Direct families to the OECD website for general information: 
- Encourage families to download the Early Years app 
- Connect with us on social media:

Instagram: [@earlychildhoodsa](https://www.instagram.com/earlychildhoodsa)

Facebook: [@earlychildhoodsa](https://www.facebook.com/earlychildhoodsa)

LinkedIn: [Office for Early Childhood Development](https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-for-early-childhood-development)

Questions

