

Flying Start for kids



Flying Start Preschool Partners

Information session for current Preschool Plus services



Government of
South Australia

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.





Supporting confident delivery of Preschool Plus

Today's workshop will focus on implementation insights – answering common questions and clarifying expectations. We will cover:

- Requirements for delivering Preschool Plus
- Expectations for Partner Service
- Attendance, movement and withdrawals
- Optimising the use of Preschool Plus funding
- Support available to Partner Services
- New implementation resources
- Expanded referral pathways
- Discussion and Q&A



Clarifying preschool plus enrolment requirements



As a Preschool Plus Partner Service, you are required to:

- Deliver 1,200 teacher-led preschool hours per year across the two years before school.
- Ensure children enrolled in Preschool Plus are enrolled for a minimum of 1000 hours of preschool per year.
- Provide a welcoming, inclusive and culturally responsive preschool environment.
- Partner with families, recognising they know their child best and that every family's circumstances are different.
- Work collaboratively with referring practitioners, Local Teams and other professionals.
- Identify and respond to barriers affecting preschool attendance using the Preschool Plus supports available.
- Raise concerns early so children receive timely support.
- Use Preschool Plus funding in line with program requirements.

Preschool Plus is built on partnership

- Families – Know their child and make decisions about participation.
- Partner Services – Deliver the preschool program and support participation.
- Referring practitioners – Continue supporting the child and family and provide broader case coordination where required.
- OECD – Provide program guidance, implementation support and funding administration.



Clarifying Preschool Plus delivery requirements

Services have flexibility in how they deliver Preschool Plus provided that minimum program requirements are met.

To support consistent program delivery, Partner Services are required to:

- Provide access to 1,200 teacher-led preschool hours a year and ensure Preschool Plus children are enrolled for a minimum of 1,000 teacher-led preschool hours each year.
- Make every endeavour to support participation in the full 1,200 hour program.
- Structure preschool participation across 3 or 4 days per week only (Preschool Plus cannot be delivered over 5 days).
- Deliver teacher led preschool for no less than 6 hours per day and no more than 8 hours per day.

Service structure	Annual hours available	Meets Preschool Plus delivery requirements
4 days x 6 hours x 40 weeks	960 hours	No
4 days x 7.5 hours x 40 weeks	1,200 hours	Yes
3 days x 8 hours x 50 weeks	1,200 hours	Yes
4 days x 6 hours x 50 weeks	1,200 hours	Yes
5 days x 6 hours x 40 weeks	1,200 hours	No

(*) Where children commence preschool plus part-way through the delivery period, hours will be pro-rated



Government of
South Australia

Additional service eligibility requirements also apply

- ✓ Meeting Preschool Plus partnership requirements:
 - ✓ Delivering an approved funded preschool program
 - ✓ Maintaining a minimum Meeting National Quality Standard rating
 - ✓ Meeting broader operational and program requirements

Supporting preschool attendance

Children participating in Preschool Plus may experience changing circumstances that affect their ability to attend preschool consistently.

Partner Services play an important role in identifying barriers to attendance early and working with families and other professionals to support children to sustain program participation.

Where attendance concerns arise, Partner Services should:

- Discuss the child's attendance with the family to understand barriers.
- Collaborate with the referring practitioner (where applicable) where additional family support may be required.
- Consider how Ready Set Preschool funding may assist to reduce barriers.
- Engage the Local Team where additional implementation support or advice is required.
- Continue to support the child to participate in preschool wherever possible.



When a child's Preschool Plus participation changes

Preschool Plus participation may change throughout the year for a range of reasons.

Changes may include:

- temporary attendance changes due to family or child circumstances
- the family can no longer maintain the Preschool Plus participation pattern
- the child is transferring to another preschool
- the child is withdrawing from Preschool Plus while remaining enrolled in the universal (15 hour) preschool program
- the family is withdrawing from the service altogether.

What should Partner Services do?

- Discuss concerns with the family.
- Work with the referring practitioner, where appropriate.
- Contact your Local Team early to discuss the child's circumstances and available options.
- Continue supporting the child's participation wherever possible.

What to do if a child withdraws from Preschool Plus?

- Notify your Local Team
- **Update your quarterly reporting to reflect that the child is no longer enrolled in Preschool Plus.**
- Note that Preschool Plus at another service cannot be guaranteed and will depend on a range of factors including but not limited to service eligibility and capacity.

NEW Resources for 2027

Formal withdrawal and exemption guidance will be released for the 2027 Preschool Plus intake.

When a child's Preschool Plus participation changes

Preschool Plus funding is based on the child's Preschool Plus enrolment and is adjusted through the quarterly data submission and payment process.

Funding stream	Funding arrangements when a child leaves Preschool Plus
Teaching and Learning	Funding continues until the end of the last quarter in which the child was included reference data. Where there are uncommitted funds, Teaching & Learning funding may be used in accordance with the universal discretionary spending rules.
Preschool Boost	For 2027, funding continues until the end of the last quarter in which the child was included in the reference data. In 2026 this was paid as an annual amount. Preschool Boost spending rules continue to apply.
Ready Set Preschool	Funding continues until the end of the last quarter in which the child was included in the reference data. Funding must continue to be used to support Preschool Plus children and their families in accordance with the Ready Set Preschool spending rules.
Preschool Plus Fee Relief	Preschool Plus Fee Relief is paid until the end of the quarter in which the Preschool Plus enrolment ceases. As funding has already been received for that quarter, any overpayment may only be used in accordance with the Preschool Plus Fee Relief discretionary spending rules.

Partner Service responsibilities

- Notify your **OECD Local Team** as soon as a child's Preschool Plus participation changes.
- Ensure quarterly **enrolment data submissions** accurately reflect the child's Preschool Plus enrolment, **and identify any changes since the last quarter** (e.g., change in hours, left service).
- Apply the spending rules relevant to each funding stream when managing any remaining or uncommitted funding.

Funding is not adjusted immediately when a child's Preschool Plus participation changes. Funding adjustments occur through the quarterly enrolment and funding cycle, and each funding stream has its own spending rules.



Funding and supports



available to Preschool Plus partner services

Preschool Plus includes a range of funding streams and supports designed to reduce barriers to participation, support service delivery and help children and families successfully engage in the program.

Funding	Purpose
2 x the SIEFA 1 rate Teaching and Learning Funding (and x 2 any applicable regional loading)	Supports delivery of the additional teacher-led preschool program.
2 x the SIEFA 1 rate Preschool Boost Funding	Supports educator capability, practice and children's developmental outcomes.
Ready Set Preschool Funding per enrolment	Supports Preschool Plus children and families to overcome barriers to enrolment and attendance.
Preschool Plus fee relief (for eligible families)	Reduces eligible families' out-of-pocket preschool fees.

- Each funding stream has its own spending rules.
- Funding must be used for its intended purpose.
- Keep evidence to demonstrate funding has been used in accordance with the Policy & Funding Guide.
- Additional guidance for each funding stream is available in the Policy & Funding Guide.

PLUS Preschool Plus Partner Services also have access to **FREE**

Trauma Informed Practice Coaching (including backfill)

Using Ready Set Preschool funding

The Ready Set Preschool allocation is there to support the child and family **when support is needed** to maintain enrolment and attendance.

Consider...

- Are there any barriers that could affect the child's ongoing attendance?
- Are there practical supports that could help the child/ family now OR later in the year?

Not every Preschool Plus child will require the same level of support.

Remember

- Ready Set Preschool funding is there to help families, don't be afraid to spend the funding in line with the approved spending rules
- Funding should respond to emerging needs that may affect program participation
- There is no expectation that every child will require the same supports
- If a child or family does not require, or chooses not to accept additional support, funding should **not** be redirected to non-approved activities simply to spend the allocation.

Spending examples

In scope	Out of scope
Nutrition – Provision of Breakfast , take-home meals, food hampers or pantry items where food insecurity is affecting preschool attendance.	Household grocery shopping, ongoing food costs, catering for meetings or events unrelated to preschool attendance.
Transport – Bus tickets, taxi vouchers, emergency transport, fuel vouchers (short-term) to and from preschool, transport to orientation or transition activities.	Vehicle purchase or lease, registration, insurance, mechanical repairs, transport unrelated to preschool.
Clothing & Essential Items – Hats, backpacks, lunchboxes, drink bottles, nappies, seasonal clothing, spare clothing or welcome packs where needed for preschool attendance.	General household clothing, toys for home, gifts, equipment normally funded elsewhere, therapeutic equipment without an identified attendance barrier
Urgent Family Needs – One-off practical assistance following an unexpected crisis that is preventing preschool attendance (e.g. emergency care, domestic violence, fire, flood, emergency transport).	Rent, bills, cash payments, ongoing financial assistance or supports that replace family income

Before approving expenditure, ask yourself...

- ✓ Is there an identified barrier to **preschool attendance**?
- ✓ Does the support align with the **Ready Set Preschool spending rules**?
- ✓ Could I explain how this support helped remove that barrier?



Preschool Plus coaching support for Trauma-informed Practice



To support the implementation of Trauma-informed Practice, Preschool Plus services have access to optional, additional coaching and implementation supports, free of charge.

The coaching framework has been developed and delivered by **Connect.Ed**, a South Australian based multi-disciplinary provider who delivers professional development on early childhood development and trauma-informed practice.

Connect.Ed work with individual services to co-design a tailored package of up to 5 sessions to:

- Build educator confidence
- Apply trauma-informed strategies in everyday practice
- Support whole-service change

Participating services are also eligible for backfill funding based on a 10-hour contribution model

Services must ensure relevant staff have completed the free 2-part online foundational Trauma-informed Practice modules before coaching support can commence. Backfill is available for services in their first year of partnering.

Looking ahead – Preschool Plus Self-Selection

Later this year, selected services will participate in a Preschool Plus Self-Selection pathway. Rather than relying solely on referral pathways, participating services will identify children already enrolled (or enrolling) who are most likely to benefit from Preschool Plus using agreed guidance and professional judgement.

Resources and support available

Local Teams

- Your first point of contact for day-to-day implementation support.
- Discuss local challenges, service-specific questions and operational issues.
- Connect you with OECD supports where needed.

OECD

- Program policy, funding advice and statewide implementation support.
- Ongoing updates as the program continues to evolve.
- Support for complex policy or operational enquiries.

Resources available

- Preschool Plus Implementation Guide.
- Policy and Funding Guide.
- Frequently Asked Questions.
- Partner Portal resources.
- Updated guidance and implementation resources as they are released.

TiP Coaching and implementation support

- TiP Coaching opportunities to strengthen implementation.



Any questions?

