Flying Start for kids

Flying Start Consent and Confirmation

2027 process



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.



What you'll gain from today



An understanding of:

- What is **changing**
- The **difference** between consent and confirmation
- **Options for how and when** to obtain consent
- When to issue the **confirmation notices**
- How to transition from **2026 to 2027 process**
- What services need to do to **prepare for 2027**

2027 Consent and Confirmation Process

The 2027 approach for consent and confirmation is designed to make information sharing and enrolment into the preschool program clearer and easier for services and families.

Services should transition to the new process by December, providing time to embed the changes into their consent and enrolment arrangements.

A new two-step process

For children commencing Flying Start preschool in 2027 services will need to:

1. ***Obtain Consent***
   Parent/guardian consent to share personal information with OECD.

2. ***Provide Confirmation notices to families***
   Issue the relevant Flying Start 3- or 4-year-old Preschool Confirmation Notice.

Important

- Consent and Confirmation are separate requirements and documents.
- These documents should be classified as a child enrolment record for the purposes of regulation 160 of the National Regulations.

Consent to share information

Consent is the parents/guardians consenting to sharing their and their child's personal information with the OECD to administer the Flying Start preschool program and comply with early childhood reporting obligations.

Services can choose one of 2 options for obtaining consent in 2027

Option 1 – Embed Consent

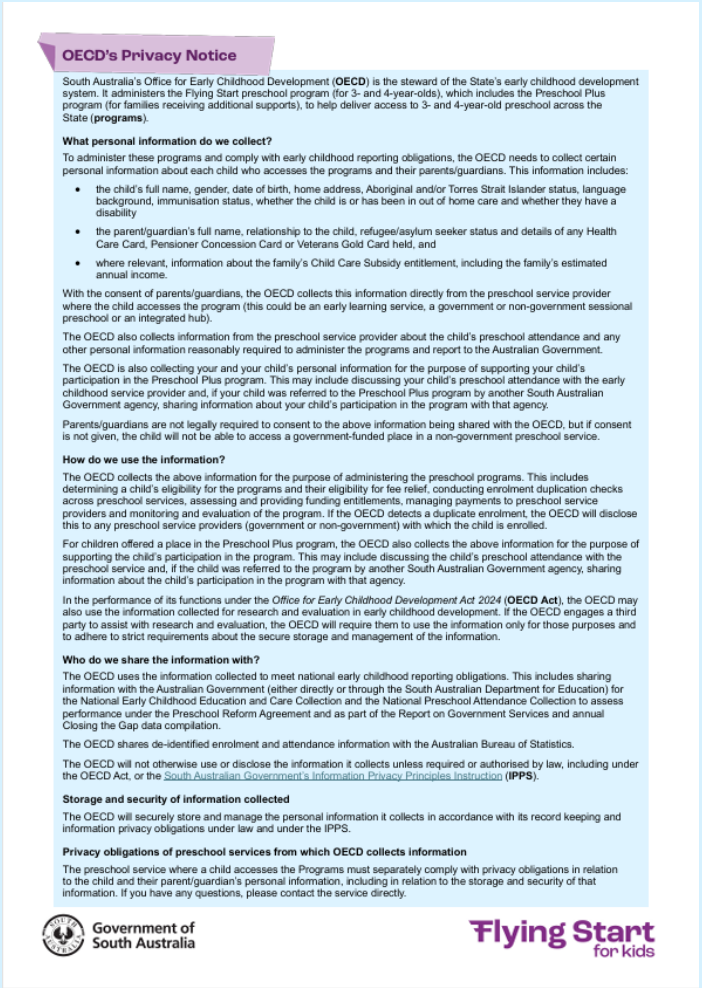
- Include the standard **OECD consent wording** into existing enrolment process and/or annual consent process. The required wording is outlined in the P&FG, and services must **provide or link** to the OECD Privacy Notice available on the OECD's website.

Option 2 – Use the OECD Consent Form

- Parent/guardians **complete the OECD** consent form for 3- and 4-year-old preschool.

When to obtain consent

- For existing enrolments in the service, consent **must be obtained 6 months before** the child's earliest eligible date to commence 3-year-old preschool.
- Consent can be obtained earlier, including when the child first enrols at the service.
- If a child enrols within 6 months of their eligible preschool commencement date, consent should be obtained at enrolment.



OECD's Privacy Notice

South Australia's Office for Early Childhood Development (**OECD**) is the steward of the State's early childhood development system. It administers the Flying Start preschool program (for 3- and 4-year-olds), which includes the Preschool Plus program (for families receiving additional supports), to help deliver access to 3- and 4-year-old preschool across the State (**programs**).

What personal information do we collect?

To administer these programs and comply with early childhood reporting obligations, the OECD needs to collect certain personal information about each child who accesses the programs and their parents/guardians. This information includes:

- the child's full name, gender, date of birth, home address, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, language background, immunisation status, whether the child is or has been in out of home care and whether they have a disability
- the parent/guardian's full name, relationship to the child, refugee/asylum seeker status and details of any Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Veterans Gold Card held, and
- where relevant, information about the family's Child Care Subsidy entitlement, including the family's estimated annual income.

With the consent of parents/guardians, the OECD collects this information directly from the preschool service provider where the child accesses the program (this could be an early learning service, a government or non-government sessional preschool or an integrated hub).

The OECD also collects information from the preschool service provider about the child's preschool attendance and any other personal information reasonably required to administer the programs and report to the Australian Government.

The OECD is also collecting your and your child's personal information for the purpose of supporting your child's participation in the Preschool Plus program. This may include discussing your child's preschool attendance with the early childhood service provider and, if your child was referred to the Preschool Plus program by another South Australian Government agency, sharing information about your child's participation in the program with that agency.

Parents/guardians are not legally required to consent to the above information being shared with the OECD, but if consent is not given, the child will not be able to access a government-funded place in a non-government preschool service.

How do we use the information?

The OECD collects the above information for the purpose of administering the preschool programs. This includes determining a child's eligibility for the programs and their eligibility for fee relief, conducting enrolment duplication checks across preschool services, assessing and providing funding entitlements, managing payments to preschool service providers and monitoring and evaluation of the program. If the OECD detects a duplicate enrolment, the OECD will disclose this to any preschool service providers (government or non-government) with which the child is enrolled.

For children offered a place in the Preschool Plus program, the OECD also collects the above information for the purpose of supporting the child's participation in the program. This may include discussing the child's preschool attendance with the preschool service and, if the child was referred to the program by another South Australian Government agency, sharing information about the child's participation in the program with that agency.

In the performance of its functions under the *Office for Early Childhood Development Act 2024* (**OECD Act**), the OECD may also use the information collected for research and evaluation in early childhood development. If the OECD engages a third party to assist with research and evaluation, the OECD will require them to use the information only for those purposes and to adhere to strict requirements about the secure storage and management of the information.

Who do we share the information with?

The OECD uses the information collected to meet national early childhood reporting obligations. This includes sharing information with the Australian Government (either directly or through the South Australian Department for Education) for the National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection and the National Preschool Attendance Collection to assess performance under the Preschool Reform Agreement and as part of the Report on Government Services and annual Closing the Gap data compilation.

The OECD shares de-identified enrolment and attendance information with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The OECD will not otherwise use or disclose the information it collects unless required or authorised by law, including under the OECD Act, or the South Australian Government's Information Privacy Principles Instruction (**IPPS**).

Storage and security of information collected

The OECD will securely store and manage the personal information it collects in accordance with its record keeping and information privacy obligations under law and under the IPPS.

Privacy obligations of preschool services from which OECD collects information

The preschool service where a child accesses the Programs must separately comply with privacy obligations in relation to the child and their parent/guardian's personal information, including in relation to the storage and security of that information. If you have any questions, please contact the service directly.

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Confirmation

3-year-old preschool

Confirmation is parents/guardians confirming their child's funded 3- or 4-year-old preschool arrangements. There are two different notices due to different eligibility requirements.

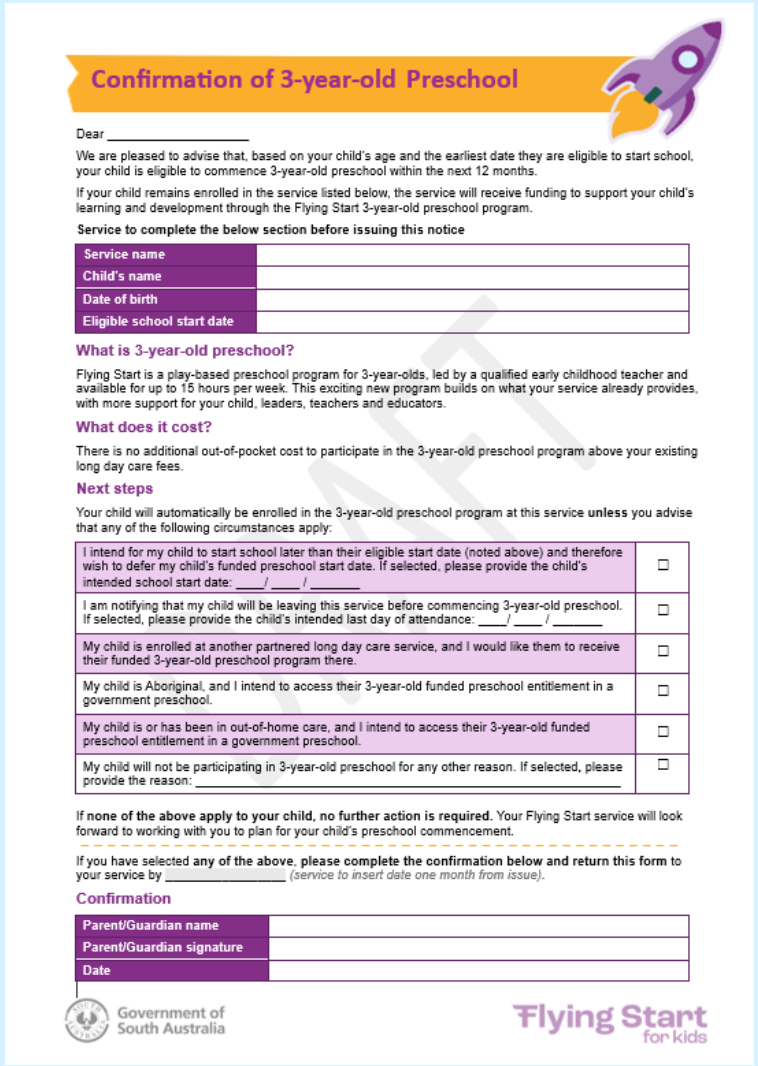
3-year-old preschool (two years before fulltime school)

Partner Services should issue parent/guardians with the 3-year-old confirmation notice:

- For existing enrolments - 6 months before the earliest date their child is age eligible to commence 3-year-old preschool
- For new enrolments within the 6 months – upon enrolment to the service.

The notice confirms the child's expected 3-year-old preschool commencement date and parents do not need to take any action if they intend for their child to commence on this date.

Parents/guardians will have 1 month to **opt out** of **(or delay)** 3-year-old preschool by providing a reason if they do not intend for their child to commence preschool at the service.



Confirmation of 3-year-old Preschool

Dear _____

We are pleased to advise that, based on your child's age and the earliest date they are eligible to start school, your child is eligible to commence 3-year-old preschool within the next 12 months.

If your child remains enrolled in the service listed below, the service will receive funding to support your child's learning and development through the Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program.

Service to complete the below section before issuing this notice

Service name	
Child's name	
Date of birth	
Eligible school start date	

What is 3-year-old preschool?

Flying Start is a play-based preschool program for 3-year-olds, led by a qualified early childhood teacher and available for up to 15 hours per week. This exciting new program builds on what your service already provides, with more support for your child, leaders, teachers and educators.

What does it cost?

There is no additional out-of-pocket cost to participate in the 3-year-old preschool program above your existing long day care fees.

Next steps

Your child will automatically be enrolled in the 3-year-old preschool program at this service **unless** you advise that any of the following circumstances apply:

I intend for my child to start school later than their eligible start date (noted above) and therefore wish to defer my child's funded preschool start date. If selected, please provide the child's intended school start date: ___/___/_____	☐
I am notifying that my child will be leaving this service before commencing 3-year-old preschool. If selected, please provide the child's intended last day of attendance: ___/___/_____	☐
My child is enrolled at another partnered long day care service, and I would like them to receive their funded 3-year-old preschool program there.	☐
My child is Aboriginal, and I intend to access their 3-year-old funded preschool entitlement in a government preschool.	☐
My child is or has been in out-of-home care, and I intend to access their 3-year-old funded preschool entitlement in a government preschool.	☐
My child will not be participating in 3-year-old preschool for any other reason. If selected, please provide the reason: _____	☐

If **none of the above apply to your child, no further action is required.** Your Flying Start service will look forward to working with you to plan for your child's preschool commencement.

If you have selected **any of the above, please complete the confirmation below and return this form** to your service by _____ *(service to insert date one month from issue).*

Confirmation

Parent/Guardian name	
Parent/Guardian signature	
Date	

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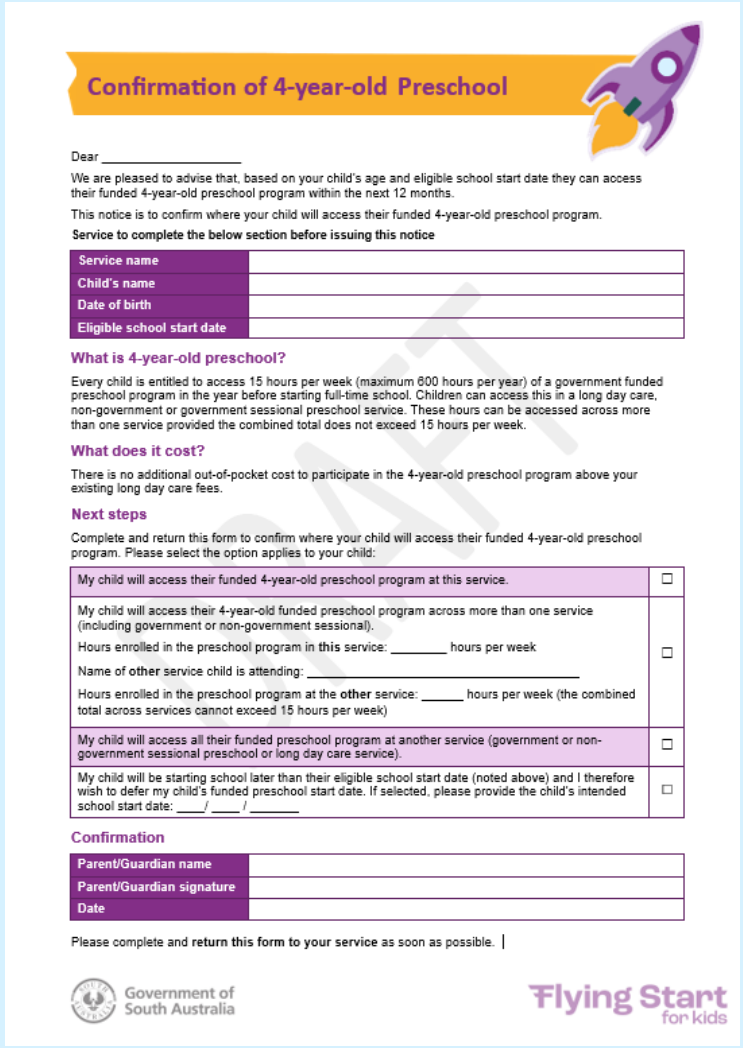
Flying Start for kids

Confirmation

4-year-old preschool

4-year-old preschool

- The notice can be issued at any time; however it is advisable to issue as early as possible.
- Parents/guardians are required to **opt in** if they intend for their child to access **4-year-old** preschool at the service.



Confirmation of 4-year-old Preschool

Dear _____

We are pleased to advise that, based on your child's age and eligible school start date they can access their funded 4-year-old preschool program within the next 12 months.

This notice is to confirm where your child will access their funded 4-year-old preschool program.

Service to complete the below section before issuing this notice

Service name	
Child's name	
Date of birth	
Eligible school start date	

What is 4-year-old preschool?

Every child is entitled to access 15 hours per week (maximum 600 hours per year) of a government funded preschool program in the year before starting full-time school. Children can access this in a long day care, non-government or government sessional preschool service. These hours can be accessed across more than one service provided the combined total does not exceed 15 hours per week.

What does it cost?

There is no additional out-of-pocket cost to participate in the 4-year-old preschool program above your existing long day care fees.

Next steps

Complete and return this form to confirm where your child will access their funded 4-year-old preschool program. Please select the option applies to your child:

My child will access their funded 4-year-old preschool program at this service.	☐
My child will access their 4-year-old funded preschool program across more than one service (including government or non-government sessional). Hours enrolled in the preschool program in **this** service: _____ hours per week Name of **other** service child is attending: _____ Hours enrolled in the preschool program at the **other** service: _____ hours per week (the combined total across services cannot exceed 15 hours per week)	☐
My child will access all their funded preschool program at another service (government or non-government sessional preschool or long day care service).	☐
My child will be starting school later than their eligible school start date (noted above) and I therefore wish to defer my child's funded preschool start date. If selected, please provide the child's intended school start date: ___/___/_____	☐

Confirmation

Parent/Guardian name	
Parent/Guardian signature	
Date	

Please complete and **return this form to your service** as soon as possible.

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2026 to 2027 transition

3-and 4-year-old preschool

Where consent has already been obtained from families for **2027 preschool enrolments** (using the 2026 Declaration and Consent forms), services will **not** need to ask families to complete the new 2027 forms.

The 2027 process will only apply for new families to the preschool program that have not yet completed the forms.

This means that for mid year and 2028 enrolments, all families should be providing consent and receiving confirmation notices under the new process.

For example:

- Child is already enrolled and commencing 3-year-old preschool program in any term in 2027 and **has already completed** the 2026 Declaration and Consent form, **no action is required**.

- Child is already enrolled and due to commence 3-year-old preschool in any term in 2027 but **has not completed** the 2026 Declaration and Consent form yet, the service should **obtain consent and confirmation using the 2027 process**.

Links to data collection

3-year-old preschool

Most services must submit **planned enrolment data**, including for 2-year-old children already attending the service, where parents or guardians have consented to sharing their information with the OECD, have received the confirmation notice and have not opted out of Flying Start preschool.

Collection of this data occurs as follows:

Timing	Requirement
August	Planned enrolments intending to start across Terms 1 and/or 2 of the following year
February	Planned enrolments intending to start across Terms 3 and/or 4 of the same calendar year

Services participating in this data collection operate in areas that have both sessional and long day care Flying Start provision.

This data is used to ensure children are receiving their Flying Start preschool offer in the setting they are eligible for (sessional or long day care) and in the coming years **all services** will be required to provide this ‘planned enrolment’ data.

This collection is in addition to **quarterly data submissions**.

How to apply the 2026 and 2027 process

Child commenced 3-year-old preschool program in 2026	Use the 2026 Declaration and Consent process.
Child commencing 3-year-old preschool program in any term in 2027 and has already completed the 2026 Declaration and Consent form	You do not need to obtain a new consent or confirmation for 3-year-old preschool. When the child becomes eligible for 4-year-old preschool, the confirmation form will need to issued.
Child currently enrolled at a service (e.g. in a 2-year-old room) and will transition into 3-year-old preschool in 2027. However, the parent/guardian has not yet completed their declaration and consent form	If **consent for 2027 preschool information sharing has not already been obtained, the service should verify consent and confirmation for accessing the 3-year-old preschool program at the service as a priority.** Where children seek to enrol in the 3-year-old preschool program for Term 1 2027 as a late enrolment (e.g. mid January 2027), the service should follow the 2027 process. This means: • Where the service embeds consent in its enrolment/annual consent process, consent can be obtained through that process. The family must then receive a **confirmation notice** before the child is eligible for 3-year-old preschool. • Where consent is not embedded, the parent/guardian must complete the **OECD consent to share information form**. The family must then receive a **confirmation notice** before the child is eligible for 3-year-old preschool.

What services need to do now

- Determine whether obtaining parent/guardian consent to share data with the OECD will be embedded in your enrolment/annual consent process.
- If embedding consent, update your enrolment/consent documentation using the approved wording provided in the Policy and Funding Guide for 2027 delivery, and link to the OECD's Privacy Notice.
- Establish a process for management of consent and confirmation requirements.
- Ensure consent and confirmation forms are retained as prescribed child enrolment records in accordance with National Regulations.

Visit the Flying Start Partner Portal to learn more about the changes and access the new forms.

What's next

5 Nov – Introducing EC Connect Webinar

3 Dec – EC Connect: Launch and Getting Ready Webinar

10 Dec– Reflecting on 2026 and looking ahead to 2027

12 Oct – Provisionally Registered Teachers Mentoring Program starts

14 Oct – Flying Start Early Childhood Awards Ceremony

1 Nov – Flying Start Partnership Plans due

6 Nov – Term 4 confirmed enrolments due

10 Nov – Leaders Forum 4

Flying Start for kids

Share your Flying Start Story

As we head towards the end of 2026, we're excited to hear about your experience delivering Flying Start!

Tell us what's worked well, what you've learned along the way, or perhaps there's been a special moment that made you stop and think, this is what Flying Start is all about.

Your story can be as simple as a few paragraphs, with a photo. Simply email them through to OECD.engage@sa.gov.au.

Stay connected

- Visit the Flying Start Partner Portal (Password: FlyingStart!).
- Keep across what you need to know to deliver Flying Start through our fortnightly 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
  Facebook: @earlychildhoodsa
  LinkedIn: Office for Early Childhood Development

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Questions

