

Flying Start for kids



Flying Start Partners Webinar

Becoming a Preschool Plus Partner Service



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.





By the end of today's session

You'll gain an understanding of Preschool Plus, including:

- What Preschool Plus is
- What it means to be a Preschool Plus partner, including service eligibility requirements and operational expectations
- How children and families are selected to participate
- How Preschool Plus funding works
- The supports and resources available to help you deliver the program.



What is Preschool Plus?



Preschool Plus is a targeted early learning program designed to support children experiencing higher levels of vulnerability with increased access to quality preschool (30 hours per week) in the 2 years before school, supporting stronger developmental outcomes and building the foundations children need to thrive in all areas of life.

- Quality, teacher led program
- Provides up to 1,200 hours of preschool access in each of the 2 years before school
- Prioritises children experiencing higher levels of vulnerability
- Delivered through eligible preschools across South Australia.
- Supports improved development, participation and stronger lifelong outcomes for children.

“The child has been attending regularly and, within just one term, has shown noticeable progress in personal hygiene and behaviour.

We clearly see the value of the Preschool Program, recognising that the additional hours have played a key role in supporting this improvement.”

Sunrise, Whyalla

Delivering Preschool Plus is a partnership

Successfully delivering Preschool Plus is a partnership approach, with everyone playing an important role in supporting children to access and sustain participation in the program.

Office for Early Childhood Development

Provides program oversight, funding and implementation support.

Referring agencies (Department for Child Protection and Department of Human Services)

Identify eligible children and support families through referral pathways.

Partner services

Deliver Preschool Plus and support children and families to engage consistently in the program.

Families and caregivers

Work alongside services and partner agencies to support ongoing participation.



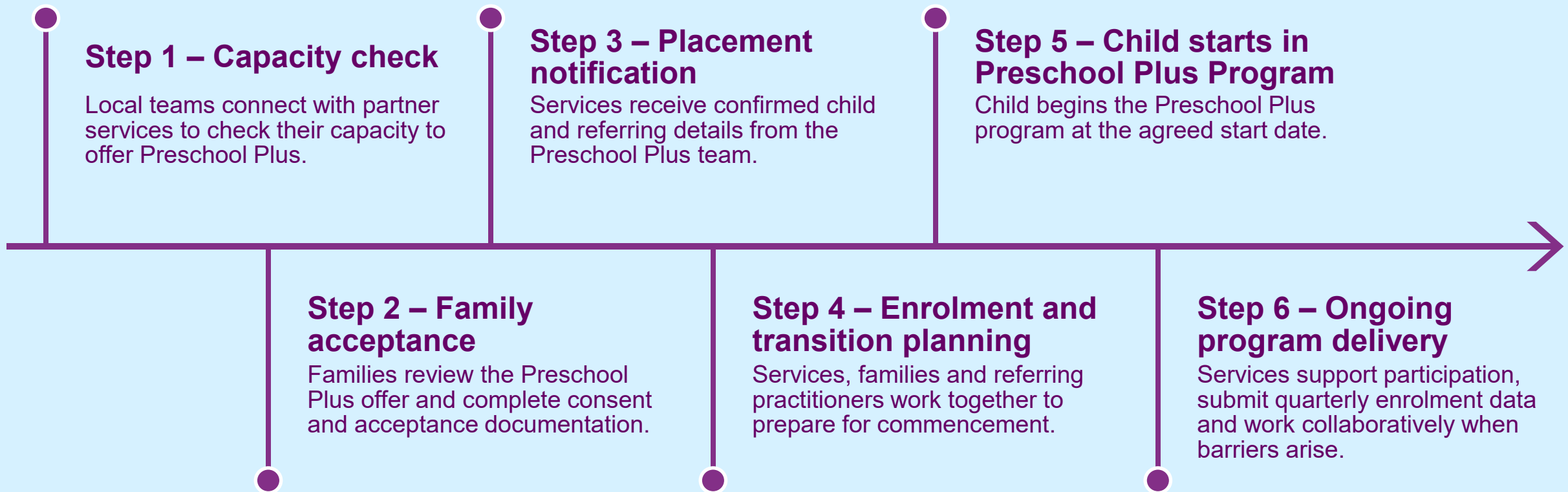
How children access Preschool Plus

Children can access Preschool Plus through one of three referral pathways designed to identify children who may benefit most from increased access to early learning and additional participation supports.

Referral pathway	Integrated hub pathway	Service Self-Selection pathway (under development)
- Eligible children are identified through the <i>Department for Child Protection</i> or the <i>Department of Human Services</i>. - Families provide consent to participate. - Children are matched to eligible Flying Start partner services.	- Children are identified directly through participating integrated hub services. - Preschool Plus is their primary teacher-led preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds.	- Implementation approach is being developed. - A small number of services may be selected to participate in initial implementation activities. - Further information will be provided to relevant services as this work progresses.

What happens before a child commences Preschool Plus?

Before a child begins Preschool Plus, the OECD, partner services, families and referring agencies work together to prepare for successful participation in the program.



What delivering Preschool Plus looks like

Preschool Plus is designed to provide children with increased access to quality early learning. Services have flexibility in how Preschool Plus is delivered, provided you can support overall program requirements.

Meeting Preschool Plus service delivery requirements

Preschool Plus must be delivered across 3 or 4 days per week. Different service operating models may affect whether Preschool Plus participation requirements can be met.

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

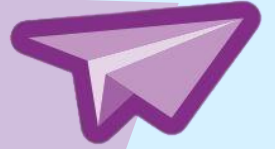
Services should consider whether their preschool delivery model aligns with Preschool Plus delivery requirements, noting the program cannot be delivered across 5-day attendance models.

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



Ongoing role of participating services



Being a Flying Start Preschool Plus partner involves supporting children and families to successfully engage in the program over time, including:

Supporting family engagement

Work with families to support successful participation and maintain open communication throughout the program.

Creating an inclusive environment

Provide a welcoming and supportive environment that enables children to participate consistently.

Using available supports

Use Preschool Plus funding and available supports to help reduce barriers impacting participation.

Responding to changing circumstances

Identify early where family circumstances or participation patterns change and engage relevant supports where additional assistance may be needed.

Meeting ongoing program requirements

Complete required program processes including quarterly enrolment data submission and maintaining program records.



Funding and supports

available to Preschool Plus partner services



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

- **2 x the SIEFA 1 rate Teaching and Learning Funding (and x 2 any applicable regional loading)**
- **Preschool Plus fee relief (for eligible families)**
- **Ready Set Preschool Funding per enrolment**
- **2 x the SIEFA 1 rate Preschool Boost Funding**
- **Core Training**
- **Free Trauma Informed Practice Coaching**

“The Centre Director is extremely positive about Preschool Plus, noting it re-engaged a previously disconnected family and strengthened relationships.

Targeted support enabled full-time attendance, and the child is already showing improvements in language development.”

Woodville Gardens B-6 Children’s Centre

More funding for teaching and learning per Preschool Plus enrolment

- Double the universal preschool, teaching and learning allocation at SEIFA 1 rate totalling \$5,330*.

Enhanced Preschool Boost funding per Preschool Plus enrolment

- \$2,740* (double the universal Preschool Boost allocation per enrolment at the SEIFA 1 rate) to secure extra supports to address developmental needs.

Enhanced Ready Set Preschool funding per Preschool Plus enrolment

- \$1,743 per enrolment to support sustained program participation



Accessing Preschool Plus funding

Preschool Plus enrolment data must be submitted to the OECD via the Flying Start quarterly data submission in order to receive the additional funding associated with Preschool Plus enrolments.

- OECD data collection processes will have a flag for services to identify Preschool Plus enrolments, including if eligible for Preschool Plus fee relief
- Confirmed Preschool Plus enrolments will receive funding in alignment with rates outlined in the Policy and Funding Guide.



Preschool Plus Fee Relief for Families

Preschool Plus fee relief is designed to support affordability and access to eligible families with reducing out-of-pocket costs, when their child is enrolled in the Preschool Plus program in a long day care service.

Preschool Plus children may be eligible for fee relief if:

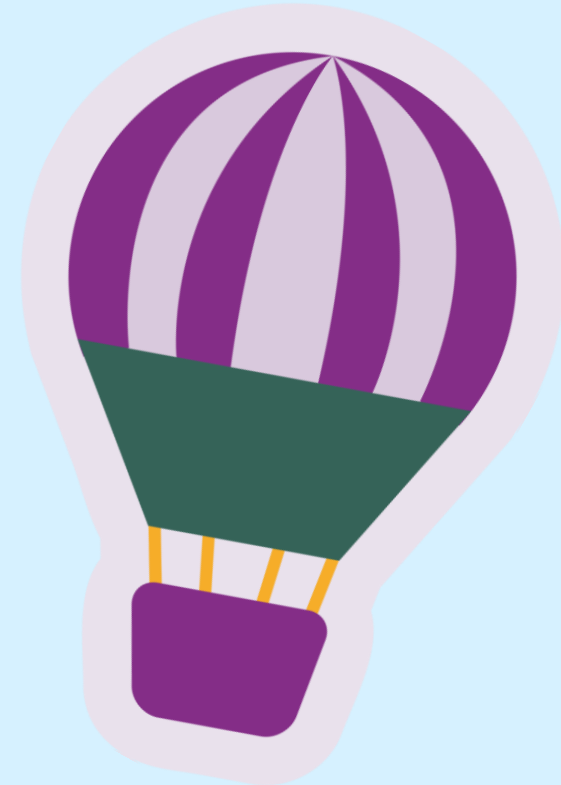
- they have a place and maintain eligibility in the Preschool Plus program
- they are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)
- their gross family annual income is below the income cap (80% CCS subsidy rate), and
- their out-of-pocket costs are not already covered by the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) or other funding.



Preschool Plus fee relief calculator

The OECD has developed a fee relief calculator and guidance document to support partner providers and their services to calculate the total **Preschool Plus fee relief amount families are eligible for**.

- The calculator is designed to support conversations with referring agencies and families, by estimating the indicative out-of-pocket costs payable for each eligible Preschool Plus enrolment.
- The checklist will ensure that services have all necessary information prior to having conversations with families.
- The calculator and checklist are available via the Partner Portal and are available to inform discussions with potential families who have been referred into the Preschool Plus program.



Information required

Service-level information:

- Daily rate charged by your service; and
- Hours charged in total per day (i.e. session hours).

Child-level information:

- Whether the child's family has access to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) or Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS)
- Whether the family has exceeded the CCS allowable absences (if known)
- The hours of CCS the family can access each fortnight; and
- The family's estimated annual income and/or CCS level.

Preschool Plus Fee Relief Calculator - Individual child: (it

Please enter the details below for each child for whom you are seeking to calculate a Preschool Plus fee relief paym

Field descriptors:

You are encouraged to first consider a child's likely eligibility via the flow diagram: [here](#)

User manual entry
User selection from drop down box
Calculation

Characteristics of the child and family:

Has this child been referred into the Preschool Plus program?

Yes

Does this child's family have access to the Australian Government Child Care Subsidy?

Yes

Has this family exceeded the CCS allowable absences?

No

How many hours of Australian Government Child Care Subsidy can this family access each fortnight?

72

In family situations where there are two parents, please use the activity level of the parent with the lower amount of recognised activity under the Commonwealth Government's rules.



Core training for partner services

All Flying Start partner services have access to foundational Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Trauma-informed Practice training. This training is **mandatory** for educators in funded preschool rooms and staff engaging directly with families and strongly recommended for all staff.

The training is centrally funded, freely available, and services can access a funding contribution towards backfill for mandated staff to undertake the training

Aboriginal Cultural Safety training

Foundational Aboriginal Cultural Safety training focuses on building knowledge aligned with the 'Knowing' level of the Knowing, Being, Doing Cultural Safety framework

This training is available in person through the Preschool Boost menu and an online version will be available via Plink in 2027

Trauma-informed Practice training

Foundational Trauma-informed Practice training builds a shared understanding and practical strategies to support the increasingly complex needs of children and families.

A 2-part online Foundational Trauma-informed Practice training is available via the Plink online learning platform.



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 2-part online foundational Trauma-informed Practice modules before coaching support can commence.

Resources and support available



Additional resources

[Policy & Funding Guide](#)

Supporting information for services, including Preschool Plus fee relief calculator, is available on the [Partner Portal](#).

Local Teams

Your OECD Local Teams are available to provide you with further support or to answer questions as you begin to work with families.



Next steps

- ✓ Review available Preschool Plus resources and supporting materials on the Partner Portal
- ✓ Consider whether your current service model supports Preschool Plus delivery requirements
- ✓ Review Preschool Plus program information in the updated Policy and Funding Guide once released
- ✓ Discuss Preschool Plus participation opportunities and readiness internally within your services
- ✓ Reach out to your Local Team if you have any questions or require further support.



Survey

We've received feedback from some services that the current webinar times may not suit everyone's schedules.

To help us plan future webinars at times that better meet the needs of services and minimise disruption to service delivery, we've developed a short survey to gather your feedback.

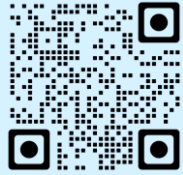
The survey will be sent to you via email over the coming week.



Stay updated & connected



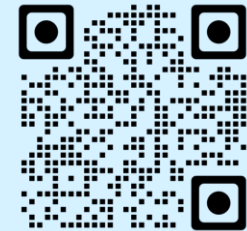
- Visit the Flying Start Partner Page for key information, and resources to support you in delivering Flying Start Preschool.



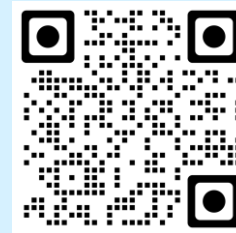
Password: Flying Start!

- 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: www.flyingstart.sa.gov.au



- Encourage families to download the Early Years app.



- Connect with us on social media:

Facebook: @Flying Start for kids

Instagram: @earlychildhoodsa

LinkedIn: @officeforearlychildhooddevelopment



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Any questions?

