

Flying Start Webinar 10 October 2025

Q & A summary

Q: If a partner service has a teacher with a primary teaching degree, a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education, and a Special Authority to Teach as Early Childhood Teacher (ECT SAT) from the Teachers Registration Board (TRB), do they meet the requirements to deliver 3- and 4-year-old preschool?

A: Yes. Since the teacher holds an ECT SAT from the TRB and qualifications recognised by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, they meet the current requirements to deliver 3- and 4-year-old-preschool. See page 11 of version 1.1 of the Policy and Funding Guide for more information.

If services have any specific questions about teacher eligibility, please reach out to your Local Team for further information.

Q: If a partner service is located in a cross-border community (e.g., with Victoria) and they have an eligible enrolment, how do they include an interstate address on the Excel spreadsheet?

A: The Flying Start Preschool Enrolment submission template is designed to accept suburbs from any state. In Column I, the drop-down options include all suburbs in South Australia. However, if you are entering a suburb from another state, you can simply type this suburb into the field, rather than selecting from the drop-down options. If services are experiencing any problems, please contact OECD.PreschoolFunding@sa.gov.au.

Q: What happens if a child originally planned to start school in mid-2027, but after beginning the 3-year-old preschool program, the family decides they want to delay school until 2028?

A: The child is only eligible to access up to a maximum of 8 terms of a funded preschool program. If they continue attending beyond those 8 terms, they can stay enrolled at a service, but the service would not receive funding for that enrolment.



It's important to have a conversation with families early on to help them plan their child's preschool journey. A good approach is to work backwards from their intended school start date to determine the best time to begin preschool.

Q. If a service is currently being re-assessed and rated and hasn't received the outcome yet, can it still promote 3-year-old preschool places?

A. Yes. If the service is a confirmed partner service with a signed Flying Start Funding Agreement, the service can continue to advertise and collect declaration and consent forms for both 3- and 4-year-old preschool.

If a service's National Quality Standard rating changes following the assessment and rating, it is a contractual requirement for you to let us know.

If your new rating is 'Working Towards', you may be required to join the Quality Uplift Program to support ongoing improvement for your service.

Q: Are children who receive inclusion support funding eligible to attend preschool?

A: Inclusion support funding is separate from Flying Start preschool funding and Preschool Boost funding. As such, this does not affect their eligibility to participate in a preschool program.

Q: Can a child who turns 3 in March start 3-year-old preschool at the beginning of the year, even though they would still be 2? Or do they need to wait until their 3rd birthday?

A. They may be able to, if this can be accommodated within the National Law ratio requirements, and they are planning to start Reception in Term 1, 2 years later. The goal is that children should receive as much of their 2 years of preschool as possible, considering intended school starting ages.

You can include them in your Term 1 2026 enrolment data if the child is also planning to start school in Term 1 2028. However, if your ratios don't allow for a 2-year-old to start on the first day



of term, they can still be counted in your Term 1 2026 enrolment data and begin attending once they turn 3 in March.

Q: If a service currently has a child enrolled in Term 1 in the 3-year-old room who will move up to the 4-year-old room in March/April, would we need to complete the 3-year-old form or the 4-year-old form?

A: This will depend on the school start date and if they are in the year, or two years before full-time school. It would be best to work back and determine how many terms of preschool they could access before their intended school start date.

They are then enrolling in either:

- two years before school, and need to complete the 3-year-old form; or
- one year before school and need to complete the 4-year-old form.

It's important to note that as children transition from 3-year-old preschool (two years before full-time school) to 4-year-old preschool (year before full time school), they will need to sign a new form. The 3- and 4-year-old forms both have different consents for data use that parents/guardians need to acknowledge and accept before the service can submit data for that child to the OECD.

Q: Are services still expected to use their own enrolment forms for 3- and 4-year-old preschool, or is there now a Flying Start version that should be used instead?

A: Services should continue using their own service enrolment forms as usual. The Declaration and Consent forms provided are not intended to replace your existing enrolment forms but instead be used alongside these to confirm a parent/guardian's consent for information to be shared with the OECD to access a funded preschool place.

Q: If a family plans to send their child to a government sessional service (i.e., kindergarten) for the 4-year-old preschool program but hasn't confirmed which days the child will attend, should the service assume the child will attend the full 15 hours at the kindergarten and not complete the Declaration and Consent form for the child at their service?



A: If the number of hours a child will attend a government sessional service compared to long day care isn't yet confirmed, wait until those details are known. The 4-year-old Declaration and Consent form has an Eligibility section for families to nominate whether the child is accessing their 15 hour per week preschool entitlement across multiple long day care or sessional services in 2026.

Q. If a child currently receives fewer Child Care Subsidy (CCS) hours than needed to cover 15 hours per week, will they be granted more hours once they become eligible for 3-year-old preschool?

A: Teaching and learning preschool funding is provided directly to the service to support the delivery of the preschool program, it is not linked to CCS. Families do not need to be eligible for CCS to access 3- and 4-year-old preschool programs. Please note there are CCS eligibility requirements for the Preschool Plus fee relief.

From 5 January 2026, the Australian Government is replacing the activity test so all CCS eligible families can get at least 72 hours of subsidised child care each fortnight. These changes are known as the 3 Day Guarantee.

