

Flying Start for kids

Term 3 2026
Enrolment Support Pack



Confirming your eligible preschool children

This support pack will help you to support families and their children to participate in a funded 3- and 4-year-old preschool program from Term 3 2026.

Research shows that providing more support in the early years of a child's life can address developmental needs and positively influence their life trajectory. More than 90% of a child's brain development occurs before the age of 5. These early years are the perfect time to build a child's confidence, curiosity and important life skills.

Quality early childhood services can benefit all children, and the benefit is greater for children who may need additional support.

We will continue to work closely with you as a Flying Start partner to support as many 3- and 4-year-olds as possible to participate in a funded preschool program.

As outlined in the [Policy and Funding Guide](#), teaching and learning funding for preschool is provided per confirmed enrolment which supports a greater investment in your service for the delivery of a quality, teacher-led preschool program.

Encouraging enrolments

The introduction of 3-year-old preschool is a turning point for early childhood education in South Australia, and maximising participation means greater investment in supports to help deliver a high quality, teacher-led early childhood program.

You will be required to submit confirmed Flying Start 3- and 4-year-old preschool enrolments for Term 3 to the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD). These confirmed enrolments will be for the reference period (data collection period) of weeks 2 and 3 of Term 3 2026 only. That is, any eligible child that is enrolled in a 3- or 4-year-old Flying Start preschool program between 27 July 2026 – 7 August 2026.

Therefore, you will need signed declaration and consent forms from parents for all children prior to 7 August 2026 to enable these children to be submitted in the Term 3 data collection.

Forms and family letter

You can find key documents, including the current declaration and consent forms and family letter on the Partner Page of the OECD website: www.earlychildhood.sa.gov.au/for-providers/partner-page/key-reform-initiatives/3-year-old-preschool-readiness. (access code: **FlyingStart!**)

Key messages

Here are some talking points that can help guide your discussions with parents and families.

Why should I enrol my child?

- Enrolling your child in our 3-year-old preschool program helps us to provide engaging, high-quality learning environments for your child, including access to extra supports for families and children through the Preschool Boost program.
- There is one form that families will need complete depending on your child's preschool program and takes about 5 minutes in total to complete – a Declaration and Consent form.
- Our service receives funding for each child registered in the 3- and 4-year-old preschool program.
- This funding helps us to employ qualified, highly skilled teachers and educators for your child, and supports resourcing to deliver quality play-based learning.
- The funding also goes towards supporting teachers and all our staff with training and professional development, delivery of evidence informed programs and supports including engagement with allied health professionals.

What is 3-year-old preschool?

- The 3-year-old preschool program is for children in their two years prior to when they start full-time school (i.e. Reception).

- It is a teacher-led, play-based, age-appropriate program, focused on developing the skills that will support children throughout their lives.
- Children learn and thrive in a safe, supportive, play-based environment led by qualified teachers.
- Positive early learning experiences can help with building language and curiosity, making friends, strengthening physical health and motor skills, and enhancing a sense of culture and belonging.
- It is also one of the earliest and most powerful ways we can help children learn empathy, respect and belonging.
- As our service is a Flying Start preschool partner, your child is eligible for 2 years of quality early learning before they start school.
- A child is eligible for 3-year-old preschool in 2026 if they:
 - Turn 3 on or before 30 April → eligible for Term 1 intake
 - Turn 3 between 1 May and 31 October → eligible for Term 3 mid-year intake
 - Use the Flying Start [online age calculator](#) to figure out if your child is eligible to start mid-year.

What are the benefits for families?

- Families are a child's first and most important teachers – 3-year-old preschool gives families another tool in their parenting toolkit.
- It builds community – preschool is often a child's first step into their local community and can lead to strong, lasting connections with other families, educators and services.
- It supports a smooth transition to school as families are better prepared, with more time to build confidence, routines and relationships.
- The joy, growth and confidence children gain at preschool is the greatest benefit of all.

What are the benefits for my child?

- The early years are crucial to a child's brain and social development - and when it comes to early childhood education, 2 years are better than one.
- Starting quality, play-based preschool at age 3 will support access to age-appropriate early learning for two years. This helps children to build confidence, curiosity and creativity that are essential for lifelong learning.
- There's strong international and local evidence to show that high-quality early childhood education and care can have a positive impact for all children.
- It can change life trajectories, inspire a love of learning and build community connection.