

## Flying Start Partners Webinar - 5 June 2026

### Getting started: eligibility, enrolments and family communications

#### Q & A Summary

**Q:** If a child has recently turned 4 and is due to start school in 2028, can they participate in the Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program during Terms 3 and 4 of 2026, and then attend 4-year-old preschool in 2027?

**A:** Yes. If the child is due to start school in January 2028, they can commence 3-year-old preschool in Term 3 2026 and participate for two terms. They can then transition to 4-year-old preschool in 2027 and complete their four terms of preschool before starting school in 2028.

**Q:** If a child has developmental delays and their entry to school is deferred to allow time for additional learning and development before starting school, are they eligible for Flying Start preschool funding beyond the 8 terms of preschool?

**A:** Flying Start funding is available for up to eight terms of preschool, in line with the Royal Commission recommendations.

Children can access these funded terms across their preschool journey before starting school however additional Flying Start funding is not available beyond the eight-term entitlement.

**Q:** If a child is eligible for Flying Start preschool from January 2027 and is currently enrolled at a service that will offer the program from this time, but their family is considering moving them to a school-based Early Learning Centre to secure a future school place, what advice could be provided for the service in supporting the family's decision making?



**A.** Families are encouraged to consider which service best meets their child's and family's needs, considering factors such as continuity of care, location, relationships, operating hours and future schooling plans.

If both services are Flying Start partner services, the child can access the Flying Start preschool program at either service. However, a child can only be enrolled in one Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program at a time.

It may be helpful to explain the options available and encourage the family to make an informed decision based on their circumstances. If the family is considering a future transition to another service, discussing this early can help support continuity and planning for the child.

**Q.** When will the SharePoint enrolment form for Term 3 be available?

**A.** Updated SharePoint links will be provided in July ahead of the Term 3 reference period. Services starting mid-year will also be invited to a dedicated webinar covering the data submission process.

**Q.** If a child is enrolled at a Flying Start long day care service before becoming eligible for 3-year-old preschool and the family would like the child to attend a government preschool instead, can they withdraw from the long day care service to do so?

If so, when would they need to withdraw their enrolment?

**A:** If the family decide they no longer need LDC- for any days of the week- and will be disenrolling from the service completely, the child is eligible to apply for 3-year-old in a government preschool. It is important to advise families that there is no guarantee for a 3 year old preschool place in a government service, given the rollout is in progress. Families will need to notify the partner long day care service by April for a mid-year intake, or October for a January intake, that there are disenrolling their child.



A child can only be enrolled in one Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program at a time and cannot attend the program at multiple services simultaneously. The OECD undertakes duplicate enrolment checks.

**Q:** If a child attends a government service for their 3-year-old preschool program, can they also attend a long day care service on additional days and during school holidays?

**A:** Yes. A child may attend a long day care service on additional days and during school holidays while enrolled in a sessional government Flying Start preschool program. However, a child cannot be enrolled in the Flying Start preschool program at both a government preschool and a long day care service at the same time.

**Q:** Can a 4-year-old child participate in the Flying Start preschool program at both a partner long day care service and a government sessional preschool?

**A:** Yes. Unlike the 3-year-old preschool program, children participating in 4-year-old preschool may attend both a Flying Start partner long day care service and a government sessional preschool. Children remain entitled to access four terms (one year) of government preschool in the year before they start school, while also attending a long day care service.

**Q:** How do Flying Start partnering services access additional supports, including allied health services?

**A:** Additional supports, including access to allied health professionals, are available through your allocated Preschool Boost funding.

OECD Local Teams are available to work alongside services to identify suitable support options that align with the developmental needs of children in their care. Further information and resources will be provided to assist services with their Preschool Boost planning.



**Q:** If a child participates in the Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program at a partnering service, are they still eligible to complete their funded 4-year-old preschool year at a government preschool?

**A:** Yes, they are eligible. A child's participation in 3-year-old preschool at a long day care partner service does not change their entitlement to a future place in government sessional preschool.

**Q:** Does the requirement that children can only be enrolled in one Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program at a time also apply in regional areas?

**A:** Yes. The requirement is the same across South Australia, including regional areas. Children can only be enrolled in one Flying Start 3-year-old preschool program at a time.

If there are specific local circumstances or questions about how this applies in regional community, services are encouraged to reach out to their Local Team to provide further clarification and tailored support if required.

**Q.** Page 22 of the Policy and Funding Guide states that services must provide a minimum of six opportunities for children to commence Flying Start preschool throughout the year. What does this mean in practice? Does this apply across the two years before school?

**A.** The requirement relates to providing families with multiple opportunities to commence preschool throughout the year, rather than limiting enrolment to a small number of intake points.

While most children will begin preschool at the start or middle of the year, services are encouraged to offer additional commencement opportunities where capacity exists. This recognises that children become eligible for preschool at different times and may have varying numbers of terms available to them before starting school.



Where a service has capacity and can accommodate a child within the teacher to child ratios, children may commence Flying Start 3-year-old preschool before turning three, provided they will become age-eligible within the relevant funding period. In these circumstances, funding may be available from the time the child commences.

The intent of the six commencement opportunities is to provide greater flexibility for families and support earlier access to preschool where places are available.

**Q.** If a child is enrolled in a 15-hour Flying Start preschool program and requires additional long day care on other days, but the service cannot offer additional bookings due to capacity constraints, can the family access another service?

**A.** Yes. The family may access long day care at another service if additional days are not available at their current service. However, the child cannot be enrolled in a second funded Flying Start preschool program. Children can only participate in one Flying Start preschool program at a time.

**Q.** How will the Priority of Access requirements outlined on page 25 of the Policy and Funding Guide be applied by partner services?

**A.** Partner services are expected to incorporate the Priority of Access requirements into their enrolment policies and procedures. Where demand for places exceeds availability, services should prioritise enrolments in accordance with the Priority of Access categories outlined in the Policy and Funding Guide.

Services are responsible for collecting the information needed to determine a child's priority category and retaining any required supporting documentation. Additional local enrolment considerations may be applied, provided Priority Category 1 and Priority Category 2 children have been appropriately prioritised first.

The OECD will continue to work with partner services to support consistent application of the Priority of Access requirements across the Flying Start program.



**Q:** Does the OECD refer children who meet the Priority of Access criteria to partner services, and if so, what is the process?

**A:** The OECD does not refer children to partner services. Each partner service is responsible for managing its own enrolment process and applying the Priority of Access criteria in line with the Policy and Funding Guide.

**Q:** If a family intends for their child to start school in Term 3 2028, but later decides in 2027 that their child would benefit from additional time before starting school, can the child continue attending preschool for a further two terms?

**A:** Children can access up to 8 terms of preschool in total. While continuity of attendance is encouraged, families have flexibility in how those terms are used, provided the child does not exceed their 8-term entitlement. This means a child may start and stop preschool attendance or transition between services. For example, a child may complete some terms at a partnering long day care service and later continue their remaining terms at a government preschool.

