



## Preschool Enrolment Policy

Date of Issue: January 2013

**Note:** All new enrolments after 1 January 2013 are subject to the same first day policies and procedures. Refer: [www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/pages/HOME/samefirstday/](http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/pages/HOME/samefirstday/)

The Department for Education and Child Development is responsible for providing preschool education programs in a range of government funded centres including kindergartens, school-based preschools (previously known as child parent centres), integrated centres and Early Childhood Development Centres. These centres provide sessional preschool for eligible children, and where possible, unfunded programs to support young children such as pre-entry sessions, emergency care and playgroups.

### Eligible enrolments

In government funded preschool programs the following children are eligible enrolments for funding purposes:

- 1. Children aged 4 years and above** are entitled to attend a preschool program for the equivalent of up to 15 hours per week for up to 40 weeks prior to entering formal schooling.
- 2. Children who are Aboriginal or under the Guardianship of the Minister** for Education and Child Development are entitled to attend preschool from the age of 3 years. The child can attend up to 12 hours per week which then increases to 15 hours once the child turns 4 years of age. The child is also entitled to continue attending the preschool program until 6 years of age.
- 3. Children attending a Designated Rural Preschool** may attend from the age of 3 years and 6 months and access an entitlement over this period of up to 600 hours.
- 4. Approved Early Entry or Extended Enrolment**  
Directors/principals may negotiate early entry or extended enrolment when:
  - additional time at preschool is likely to significantly improve a child's learning and developmental outcomes
  - the preschool has the capacity within its current resources and consultation has occurred between the director/principal, centre staff, parents and where applicable, personnel from the region, such as Preschool Support Program, Bi-Lingual Support Program, and/or specialist agencies.

These enrolments are to be counted as eligible enrolments for funding purposes, however where a service is experiencing enrolment pressures, children enrolled under Early Entry or Extended Enrolment will take second priority to other eligible enrolments.

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DECD designated "Rural Preschools" operate in communities where there are small or declining numbers of preschool aged children.

**Early entry** to preschool may be considered for:

- Children who live in small rural communities in exceptional circumstances, may be enrolled from age 3 years and 6 months in order to access this over a period of up to 600 hours.
- Children with additional needs such as a disability, developmental delay, gifted development, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or due to family and social circumstances may commence early entry 2 terms prior to their eligible year of preschool. These children are eligible to attend for 3 hours per week in the first term, increasing to a maximum of 6 hours per week from the beginning of their second term of early entry.

**Extended enrolment** in preschool may be considered for:

- Children with additional needs, who may be offered one term of extended enrolment following consultation between the director/principal, centre staff, parents and, where applicable, DECD Support Services and/or specialist agencies.

## **Pre-entry term**

A pre-entry program to preschool may be offered to children in the term prior to their eligible attendance at preschool.

The program is optional and is only to be offered where the preschool director, in consultation with the Governing Council, has identified that the program would suit the needs of the community and contribute to the aims and objectives of the service.

A pre-entry program is not funded and is only available where staffing and physical resources permit.

## **Proof of Age**

At the time of enrolment parents/guardians are required to provide proof of their child's birth age. The following documents will be accepted:

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Official Centrelink documentation stating the child's name and birth date

## **Additional information**

FAQ's – Preschool Enrolment Form and Enrolment Process

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/faqSPreschoolEnrolmentFor.pdf>

This policy is located on the DECD web site at:

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/PreschoolEnrolmentPolicy.pdf>

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