



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education  
and Child Development

# Early entry to preschool – children with additional needs

## Starting preschool

Preschool is an important early step on your child's journey through education, giving them the chance to play, learn, grow and develop.

There will soon be a change to when children start preschool. These changes will be gradually introduced in 2013.

From 2014, South Australia will have the same first day of preschool for all children. This will be the first day of term one.

The same first day of preschool will mean that every child will have four terms of preschool and then four terms of reception when they go to school.

It will also mean a more stable environment for children with fewer changes to groups throughout the year.

It is important to know that despite this change, some children will be able to start preschool earlier.

Year of birth	Child's birthday	Can start preschool
2009	Prior to 29 January	Term 1, 2013
	From 29 January to 30 April	Term 2, 2013
	from 1 May to 31 December	Term 1 2014
2010	from 1 January to 30 April	Term 1 2014
	from 1 May to 31 December	Term 1 2015
2011	from 1 January to 30 April	Term 1 2015
	from 1 May to 31 December	Term 1 2016

## Is my child eligible to start preschool early?

Children with additional needs\* may be able to start preschool two terms before they would normally start.

This is decided on a case by case basis.

If your child is eligible, they may be able to go to one session a week in the first term and up to two sessions a week from the beginning of their second term of early entry.

Talk to your Preschool Director or School Principal to find out what is available for your child.

Aboriginal Children and children under the Guardianship of the Minister for Education and Child Development can go to preschool from the time they are three. (See Fact Sheet 3 and 4)

*\*(Additional needs include disability, developmental delay, gifted development or children who are at risk because of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or family circumstance).*

## For more information

Visit your local early childhood service, school or the Department for Education and Child Development, Early Years website at <http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/>

Phone 8207 2494 or email [decdfirstday@sa.gov.au](mailto:decdfirstday@sa.gov.au)

