Starting preschool and school

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development

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.

If your child has already started preschool and you move, your child can start as soon as they are enrolled.

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

When can my child start preschool?

There will be no change in 2012.

In 2013 preschools will continue to enrol children in term one and term two.

From 2014, if your child turns four before 1 May, they will start preschool on the first day of term one.

If your child turns four on or after 1 May, they will start preschool on the first day of term one the following year.
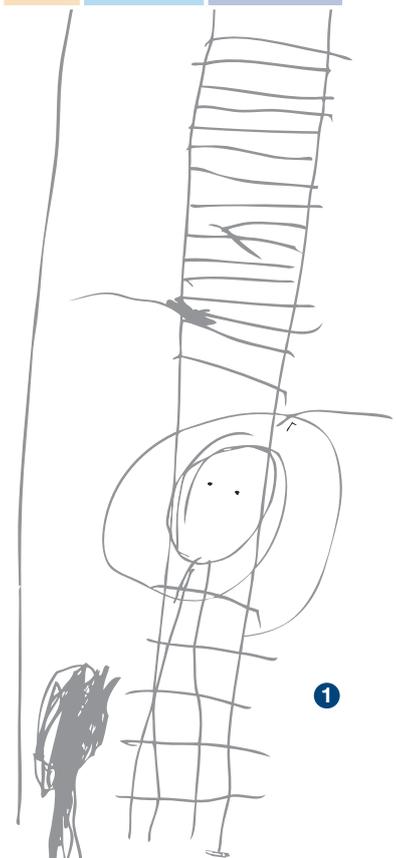
The minimum age for starting preschool will then be three years and eight months.

What happens if my child has additional needs?

Children with additional needs* may start preschool early. This will be decided on an individual basis.

Fact Sheet 2 *Early Entry to Preschool* provides more information on early entry.

Additional needs include Disability, developmental delay, gifted development, children who are at risk because of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or family circumstance. Fact sheet 2 Early Entry to Preschool provides more information

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Starting school

Starting school is an exciting time for families and children as our youngest citizens take early steps on their journey through education and on to the rest of their lives.

There will soon be a change to when children start school.

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

Having the same first day of school means that every child is guaranteed four terms of reception before they go on to the rest of their primary schooling.

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

When can my child start school?

There will be no change until 2014.

From 2014 the start date will be the first day of term one.

If your child turns five before 1 May, they will start school on the first day of term one in that year.

If your child turns five on or after 1 May, they will start school on the first day of term one the following year.

The minimum age for starting school will be four years and eight months from 2014.

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/**

To find out more information about when your child can start preschool and school, visit **www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au**

To talk to someone, call 8207 2494 or email **decdfirstday@sa.gov.au**

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