



# Starting Preschool and School

## 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 the way children start preschool.

From 2013, South Australia will have the same first day of preschool for all children - the beginning of the school year.

The same first day of preschool means 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          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 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 is no change to what happens now until 2013.

From 2013, the start date will be the first day of Term One.

If your child turns four before May 1, they will start preschool on the first day of Term One in that year.

If your child turns four on or after May 1, they will start preschool on the first day of Term One the following year.

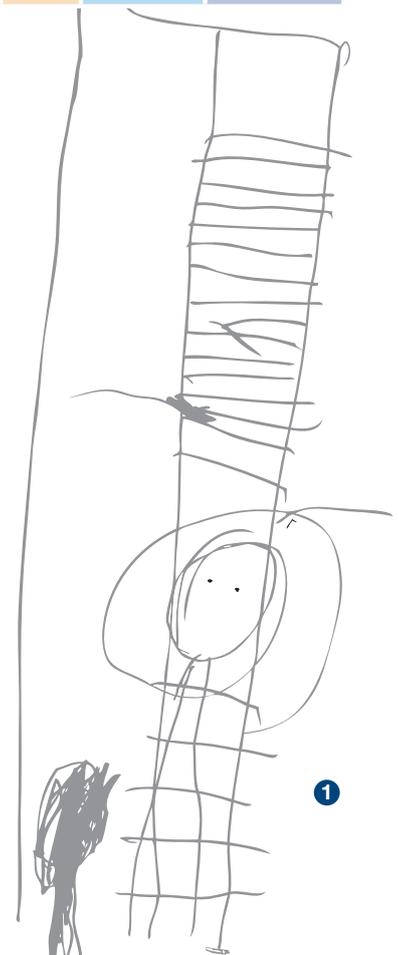
The minimum age for starting preschool will be three years and eight months from 2013.

## 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 Preschool and School

## 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 the way children start school.

From 2014, South Australia will have the same first day of school for all children – the beginning 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.

| Year of birth | Child's birthday           | Can start school |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 2009          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 2014      |
|               | from 1 May to 31 December  | Term 1 2015      |
| 2010          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 2015      |
|               | from 1 May to 31 December  | Term 1 2016      |
| 2011          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 2016      |
|               | from 1 May to 31 December  | Term 1 2017      |

## When can my child start school?

There is no change to what happens now until 2014.

From 2014 the start date will be the first day of Term One.

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

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

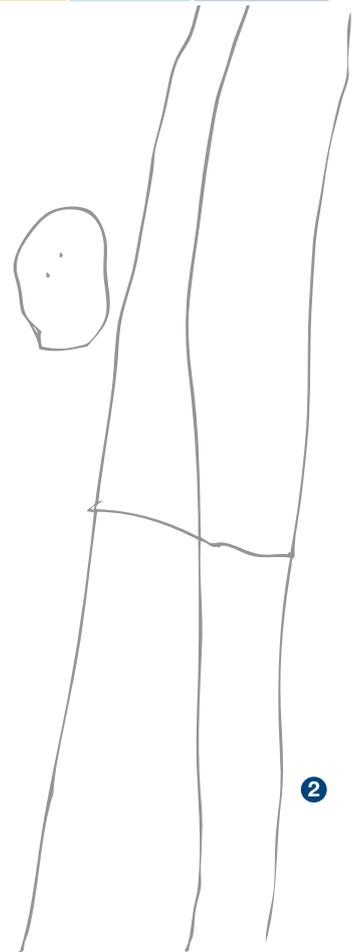
The minimum age for starting school will be four years and eight months from 2014.

## For more information

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

To find out more information about when your child can start preschool and school, visit [www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au](http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au)

To talk to someone, call 8207 2494 or email [decs.firstday@sa.gov.au](mailto:decs.firstday@sa.gov.au)





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# 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 the way children start preschool.

From 2013, South Australia will have the same first day of preschool for all children - the beginning of the school year.

The same first day of preschool means 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          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 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 [decs.firstday@sa.gov.au](mailto:decs.firstday@sa.gov.au)





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# Early Entry to Preschool for Aboriginal Children

## 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.

For most children from 2013 there will be one date for starting preschool. This will be at the beginning of the year.

## But your child may be able to go to preschool earlier.

Aboriginal children can go to four sessions a week at preschool from the time they turn three.

They do not need to wait until the beginning of the school year to start preschool.

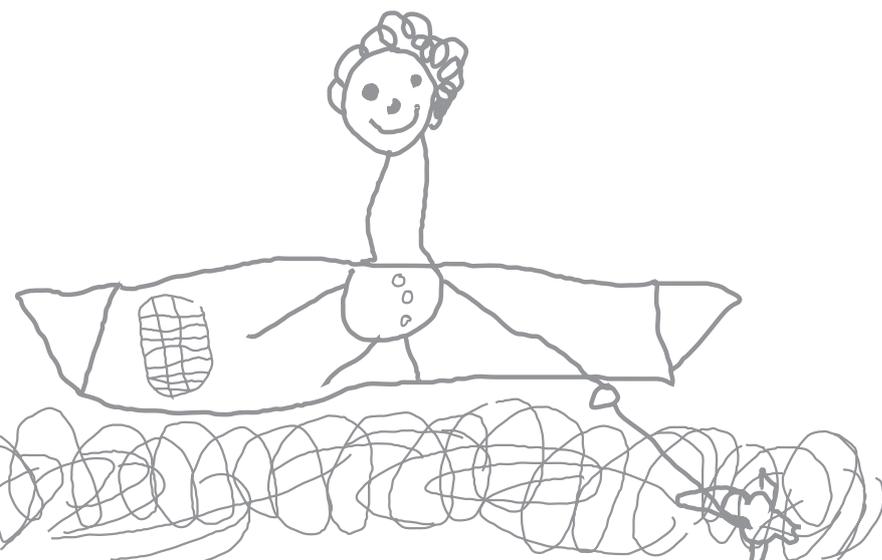
Talk to your Preschool Director or School Principal to work out together the best time for your child to start.

## 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 [decs.firstday@sa.gov.au](mailto:decs.firstday@sa.gov.au)

| Year of birth | Child's birthday           | Can start preschool |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2009          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 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         |





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# Early Entry to Preschool for children under the Guardianship of the Minister for Education and Child Development

## 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.

For most children from 2013 there will be one date for starting preschool. This will be at the beginning of the year.

But your child/the child in your care may be able to go to preschool earlier.

Children who are under the Guardianship of the Minister for Education and Child Development are entitled to four sessions at preschool a week once they turn three.

This means that your child/the child you care for can start preschool after they are three. This might mean they don't start preschool at the beginning of the school year.

Talk to your Preschool Director or School Principal to work out together the best time for your child to start. The Department for Education and Child Development will also be able to help you with more information.

## 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 ask a specific question phone 8207 2494 or email [decs.firstday@sa.gov.au](mailto:decs.firstday@sa.gov.au)

| Year of birth | Child's birthday           | Can start preschool |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2009          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 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         |





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# Entry to Preschool for children who will attend designated rural preschools

## 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 the way children start preschool.

From 2013, South Australia will have the same first day of preschool for all children - the beginning of the school year.

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

Your child will receive the same amount of hours of preschool, but they will be condensed into four terms, rather than spread over six terms.

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

This will ensure that your child is able to access their full entitlement to preschool in the year before school.

## 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 [decs.firstday@sa.gov.au](mailto:decs.firstday@sa.gov.au)

| Year of birth | Child's birthday           | Can start preschool |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 2009          | from 1 January to 30 April | Term 1 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         |

