

Every student succeeding
State Schools Strategy 2014–2018

Early entry to Prep in 2016

Parent information

Fact Sheet

When do children start Prep in Queensland?

Queensland children are eligible to attend the Preparatory Year (Prep) if they will reach the age of 5 years by 30 June in the year they propose to attend Prep.

Who is eligible for early entry to Prep in Queensland?

Children whose birthday falls in the month of July, or children who have previously enrolled at school in another state or country, may be able to commence Prep early if they are assessed by the school principal as being ready for school.

These are the only circumstances in which early entry to Prep is permitted under Queensland legislation.

A July birthday or previous school enrolment in another state or country does not guarantee early entry to Prep.

What should I consider before applying for early entry to Prep for my child?

In making a decision about a child's early entry to Prep, you should consider what is in the child's best interests for achieving success at school.

All Queensland children are encouraged to take part in a government-approved kindergarten program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher in the year before Prep.

While a child may be extremely capable in certain areas of knowledge or have high levels of skill, they might not have developed the social or emotional maturity required for early entry to Prep and success at school.

How do you decide if a child is ready for school?

If you are considering applying for early entry to Prep, the principal will need to decide whether or not your child is ready for school.

The principal's decision will be based on your child's attributes including ability, aptitude, social and emotional competence, physical development, and level of knowledge and understanding.

The principal may consider things such as whether your child can:

- confidently make choices/decisions and follow through
- make several attempts to complete a new or challenging experience before seeking help
- actively seek and accept help from familiar and unfamiliar adults
- recall past experiences, events, or discussions
- talk confidently, including expressing feelings and ideas, to familiar and unfamiliar people
- demonstrate coping skills and resilience when things don't go to plan
- interact appropriately with other children and adults
- cope well with separation from parents or carers for the duration of a school day
- confidently use fine and gross motor skills to complete tasks
- sustain active involvement in challenging experiences
- monitor and manage their own physical needs (e.g. toileting)
- sustain energy and display endurance across the learning and routine expectations of a school day
- apply knowledge from past learning to a new learning situation
- use a variety of vocabulary when classifying, sorting, sequencing and comparing everyday materials and objects
- use language associated with, and show understanding of, spatial positions and directions
- handle a book and recognise some letters, numbers and symbols (i.e. is familiar with printed material).

Is the Principal's decision on early entry to Prep final?

Yes. The principal's professional judgement is based on what is in the best educational interests of your child.

How do I apply for early entry to Prep for my child?

- If you wish to apply for early entry to Prep, you should first discuss your intention with the principal who will be able to provide information about the application process and the evidence required.
- The [application form](#) is available from your local school or can be downloaded from the internet in the [Enrolment at State Primary, Secondary and Special Schools](#) procedure which can be found at www.ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Enrolment-in-State-Primary,-Secondary-and-Special-Schools.aspx. Your application is not restricted to one page.
- You will need to show your child's birth certificate or passport to the school as proof of your child's age.
- You should also provide the principal with copies of any documentation that will assist in determining your child's eligibility for early entry. This could include a transition statement from an approved kindergarten program or information from another early childhood education and care service, evidence of enrolment at a previous interstate or overseas school and report cards or other information from that school.
- You are NOT required to obtain specific assessment of your child's school readiness from a psychologist, paediatrician or other childhood expert.

What happens next?

- The principal will consider your application, possibly in consultation with school staff such as a guidance officer or Prep teacher, to determine whether your child meets the criteria for early entry to Prep.
- The principal may invite you and your child to a meeting at the school to discuss and observe your child's readiness for school.
- The principal will notify you of his or her decision regarding early entry to Prep for your child and advise you of the enrolment process if appropriate.

Can I change my mind about enrolling my child in Prep?

- Yes. If you decide not to proceed with early entry to Prep, please notify the principal.