

## Frequently asked questions

### Why should I send my child to Prep?

Prep provides the foundation for your child's success at school. The new Australian Curriculum, introduced in Queensland from 2012, includes Prep. No Queensland child can afford to miss out on this important foundation year.

### Do I need to let the school know if my child is going to be away for a day of Prep?

Yes—You must let the school know why your child is not going to be at school.

### What does 'Prep as the first year of schooling' mean?

The Queensland Government's ambition is that every Queensland child will have 13 years of schooling, from Prep to Year 12. Prep is the first year of these 13 years of schooling.

### How old does my child need to be to start Prep?

Your child must be 5 years old by 30 June in the year they start Prep.

### What should I do if I think my child isn't ready to start Prep?

Most children commence Prep in the year they become eligible, however should you be concerned your child is not ready to start school at this time, they can commence Prep a year later when they are of compulsory school age (6 years and 6 months). This would have a flow on effect as your child progresses through to high school.

## For more information and support

You can talk with your child's school about their attendance and any concerns or support you may need to make sure they get a flying start to their education.

Visit the Department of Education, Training and Employment's website:

[www.det.qld.gov.au/initiatives/flyingstart](http://www.det.qld.gov.au/initiatives/flyingstart)



Every day counts  
in Prep



## Every day counts in Prep

### Every day counts in Prep because ...

- going to Prep every day makes sure all Queensland children get the most out of their important first year of school
- Prep gives children a head start for Year 1
- going to Prep every day improves children's reading, writing and maths
- going to school every day builds a positive approach to learning
- going to school every day strengthens your child's independence and confidence.

## Prep in Queensland

- Prep is the first year of school in Queensland. It is also the first year of the Australian Curriculum.
- Prep is full-time. It is from Monday to Friday – the same time as the other years at school.
- Schools assess and report on Prep student's achievements.

## What will your child's school do?

- Deliver the first year of the Australian Curriculum through Prep
- Monitor your child's attendance
- Talk to you about any unexplained absences
- Work with you to overcome problems affecting your child's attendance
- Give your child support for any additional learning needs they may have
- Offer developmentally, socially and culturally appropriate learning opportunities.

### Support for families

If you think your child may not be ready to start Prep, or is having difficulties in their Prep Year, you can speak to the school's principal.

If needed, you can delay when your child starts Prep by 12 months.

If your child is having problems attending Prep each school day, speak to your school for advice and support.