

Flying Start for kids



A guide for families

Your child's early childhood education and care service is partnering with the South Australian Government to deliver Flying Start 3-year-old preschool. This is part of a \$1.9 billion investment into early childhood education so every child can have a flying start in life.



**Government of
South Australia**

flyingstart.sa.gov.au

What is Flying Start 3-year-old preschool?

Flying Start is a play-based preschool program for 3-year-olds, led by a qualified early childhood teacher and available for up to 15 hours per week.

This exciting new program builds on what your service already provides, with more support for your child, leaders, teachers and educators.

This program may also be available to 4-year-olds, so it's worth checking what's on offer at your local service or centre.

By 2032, all children across South Australia will have access to Flying Start 3-year-old preschool.

Why is Flying Start 3-year-old preschool happening?

The Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care in South Australia found that starting earlier with high-quality age-appropriate learning can have a positive impact for all children.

Evidence also shows that while many children are developing well, nearly a quarter of South Australian 5-year-olds have started school behind their development milestones.

Flying Start preschool is designed to strengthen the quality of, and access to, early learning for every child.

Why the early years matter

The early years are especially important for your child's growth, with around 90% of brain development occurring before the age of 5.

Evidence shows that starting quality, play-based preschool at age 3 can support children to build confidence, curiosity and creativity, skills that form the foundation for lifelong learning.



Growing through play

What will your child experience in Flying Start 3-year-old preschool?

Play is how young children learn best. Through play, children explore, discover and begin to make sense of the world around them.

Flying Start 3-year-old preschool is led by qualified early childhood teachers with expertise in how children learn and develop.

Play-based learning includes:

- fun, purposeful activities that encourage social skills, exploration, and curiosity
- opportunities for child-led discovery that helps build confident communicators and involved learners
- a safe and supportive environment for developing self-identity and emotional resilience
- outdoor play to support health, wellbeing and care for the environment
- celebrating Aboriginal and other cultures.

Growth in areas that matter most

The program supports the five key areas of development identified in the Australian Early Development Census as important for childrens' readiness for school and life:

- Physical skills
- Social skills
- Emotional skills
- Thinking and language
- Communication and general knowledge.



Extra support built into your child's day

Your service has access to funding that enhances the quality of teaching and learning in your child's preschool room.

This includes employing qualified teachers and providing them with dedicated time to plan purposeful and engaging learning experiences.

There's also access to professional development for teachers to deepen their understanding of children's needs, supporting them to deliver responsive, high-quality learning. This includes Trauma Informed Practice and Aboriginal Cultural Safety training.

In addition teachers and leaders benefit from coaching opportunities and professional networks that support collaboration, shared learning and continuous improvement in practice.

A key component of the support available to your service and your child is Preschool Boost funding.

This funding brings extra, evidence-informed and tailored support delivered in your child's preschool room.

Supports may include:

Speech pathology

Children participate in small, play-based group sessions that build communication, language and social skills in a relaxed and engaging way.

Occupational therapy

Through guided everyday activities, children develop movement, coordination and independence, such as dressing, feeding themselves and moving safely within their environment.

Music therapy

Singing, movement and rhythm help children build emotional regulation, social skills and school readiness.

Social and emotional learning groups

Activities that support children to understand feelings, build relationships and develop self-regulation.

Support for your child's growth

Workshops and coaching programs with simple, practical ideas to use at home.

Tips and guidance to help you understand how your child learns, behaves and grows.

Strategies you can use in everyday routines to support your child's development.

When is Flying Start 3-year-old preschool happening?

Check with your service to confirm when the program will be available, including the days and hours it will run.

The program is being rolled out in stages, with all services across South Australia expected to offer it by 2032.

You can use the **Preschool Finder** available at flyingstart.sa.gov.au to locate a participating service.

How does Flying Start 3-year-old preschool work?

During the roll-out, services may offer between 6 and 15 hours per week of preschool, depending on capacity.

Your child will take part in the preschool program as part of their usual day at your service and can continue attending as normal outside of the preschool hours.

Will there be changes to fees?

You'll continue to pay the usual fees set by your service.

The Flying Start preschool program will have no additional cost.

You may also be currently receiving or be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS).

Learn more about your eligibility by visiting www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy

Want to learn more?

Speak with your service or visit flyingstart.sa.gov.au for more information.

