

Early entry to Prep: Frequently asked questions



Have Prep enrolment dates changed to include all July-born children?

No. Queensland children must still turn 5 years of age by 30 June in the year they start Prep. However, legislation allows parents of a child who turns 5 by 31 July to apply for early entry to Prep. A July-born child is not guaranteed early enrolment. Early entry to Prep is an exception, where it is in the best interests of the child and they have the required attributes.

Where are application forms available for early entry to Prep?

You will need to meet with the principal (or senior leadership team member) to discuss early entry requirements and the application process before receiving an application form available only at the school.

Will applying to more than one school increase the chances of my child being accepted?

No. All state schools will use the same criteria for assessing your child's readiness for Prep. A principal's assessment of your child will be fairly consistent. It is in your child's best interests to select the school that you would like him or her to attend and make a time to meet with the principal (or senior leadership team member) of that school to discuss your child's attributes.

If you apply to more than one state school, the principals will be aware of your previous applications. The first school you apply to will process your application first. The evidence gathered and the decision made by one principal may be used to inform the subsequent decisions of other principals.

Is there a due date to apply for early entry to Prep?

No, however, state schools are likely to delay processing early entry to Prep applications until later in the year, when children have had more time to develop the required attributes. Ideally, applications for early entry to Prep should be made in September/October to enable sufficient time for assessment, and to prepare your child for attending school or continuing in an early childhood education and care program. The school will be able to provide advice on its specific processing timeframes.

Can early entry acceptance at one state school be transferred to another state school?

No. You should apply to the school you would like your child to attend and a decision will be made by that school's principal. There is no automatic entitlement to transfer early entry to Prep enrolments because the child is not of eligible school age. If you move to another location and still want your child to commence Prep early, you will need to contact the principal at the proposed new school and apply through the same early entry to Prep application process.

Will the school contact my child's Kindergarten teacher to discuss the child's attributes?

No. However, as a parent, you can provide the school with information that the Kindergarten teacher may have given to you about your child, for example samples of your child's work, as evidence to inform the principal's decision.

If my child is accepted as an early entrant, can it be on a trial basis?

No. There are no 'trials' for schooling. If you are considering a trial period, it may be an indication that you are concerned your child may not cope with Prep. If this is the case, then it may be in the child's best interests to enrol them at the time they become age eligible for Prep.

If my child isn't accepted for early entry to Prep, what are the alternatives for their education?

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

If your child is not accepted for early entry to Prep, there are a variety of options:

- A quality early childhood education and care program provides children with learning opportunities to develop their physical, social, intellectual, language and emotional abilities – helping to prepare children for their transition to school.
- E-kindy is available for children who live in remote locations and can't physically attend a Kindergarten.

Funding is provided to approved kindergarten program providers to deliver kindergarten programs and parents may qualify for additional subsidies depending on their circumstances.

For more information, visit <http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/families/kindy/index.html>.

Can I change my mind about early entry to Prep after an application is submitted?

Yes. If you decide not to proceed with an early entry to Prep application or enrolment, notify the principal of the school where the application was made as soon as possible.

If the principal determines that my child is not eligible for Prep, can I seek an internal review of the decision?

No. The principal is responsible for the enrolment decision and the decision is not internally reviewable.
