

The decision about when a child enrolls in Prep is extremely important and should be made in the child's best educational interests to enable a positive and successful start to school.

### **Is my child eligible to enrol in Prep?**

To be eligible to enrol in Prep your child must turn 5 by 30 June in the year of attendance in Prep.

### **Can my child access early entry into Prep? Are there any exceptions to the age limits?**

Section 15 of the Education General Provisions Regulation 2006 allows early entry to the Prep Year for a child who:

EITHER

- Will be at least 5 years and 5 months on 31 December in the proposed year of attendance (i.e. a child who turns 5 on or before 31 July); AND
- Is considered 'ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child's attributes';

OR

- Had started education in another state or country that is equivalent to the Prep Year; AND
- Is considered 'ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child's attributes'.

### **The Regulations define 'child's attributes' as**

1. Aptitude and ability; and
2. Social and emotional competence, and
3. Physical development; and
4. Level of knowledge and understanding.

Parents wishing to apply for Early Entry into the Prep Year on this basis should make application to the Principal in the usual manner. Parents may then be asked to provide additional documentation to assist the Principal in making a decision as to whether the child meets the requirements of early entry to Prep.

For further information in regards to Early Entry into Prep please see the following guides:

- [Considerations and application process for early entry to Prep](#)
- [Early entry to Prep - frequently asked questions](#)

### **Can I delay entry into Prep for my child?**

#### **Delayed entry to Prep for children who have not previously been enrolled in Prep**

Parents may delay their child's entry to Prep (and subsequently Year 1) if they feel that the child is not ready to start school. For example, the child is still developing their social and emotional skills. The child can then commence Prep when they are of compulsory school age (6 years and 6 months).

No formal documentation, assessment or approval is required for delayed entry to Prep.

Principals do not make decisions on delaying a child's entry to Prep. While some parents may choose to discuss their decision to delay entry with the principal, it is not necessary for them to do so.