EARLY ENTRY PROVISIONS FOR THE 2016 PREP YEAR

At what age are children eligible to attend Prep?

All Queensland children are eligible to attend full-time Prep from the beginning of the school year in which they will reach the age of 5 years on or before 30 June. This is the earliest age that a child may be enrolled in Prep.

Note: Prep is not a compulsory year of education. The legislated age for compulsory attendance at school is when the child is at least 6 years and 6 months and less than 16 years of age [section 9 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006].

When is early entry to Prep an option?

There are only 2 options for early entry into Prep. There are no exceptions to these requirements. The conditions for early entry to Prep as described below are set out in legislation [Part 4, section 15, of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006].

1. Children who are younger than the prescribed age for Prep may be enrolled in Prep if:
   • they turn 5 years on or before 31 July in the year of proposed attendance; and
   • the Principal is satisfied the child is ready for education in Prep, having considered the child’s attributes, including aptitude, ability, social and emotional competence physical development; and level of knowledge and understanding.

2. The legislation continues to allow a Principal to enrol a child in Prep who is younger than the prescribed age if the child:
   • has previously started education that is equivalent to Prep in another state or country; and
   • is considered ready for education in Prep, having regard to their attributes, as outlined previously.

The table below sets out the normal range for Prep birth dates and the possible birth date ranges for the Early Entry into Prep provisions.

### Birth dates and Prep enrolment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Born</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/7/2010 - 30/6/2011</td>
<td>Prep Possible Early entry 1–31 July 2011</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7/2011 - 30/6/2012</td>
<td>Kindy</td>
<td>Prep Possible Early entry 1–31 July 2012</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7/2012 - 30/6/2013</td>
<td>Kindy</td>
<td>Prep Possible Early entry 1–31 July 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What will happen in 2017?

The State Government will develop, after consultation with stakeholders, a formal framework for schools to deliver a consistent assessment process for determining a child’s readiness for early entry to Prep. The framework will be introduced during 2016 for enrolments in the 2017 school year.

Does this impact upon Kindergarten?

There is no early entry to a kindergarten program, for the purposes of funding. Please see ISQ’s Eligible Age for Kindergarten Program Participation and Funding Fact Sheet for more information.

MORE INFORMATION OR ADVICE

This advice is provided with the acknowledgment that not all the facts of the situation are known to Independent Schools Queensland. Independent Schools Queensland is able to provide more detailed advice upon request.