



## A Flying Start for Queensland Children

### Prep as the first year of schooling

Prep is recognised as the first year of school in Queensland and with the introduction of the Australian Curriculum, full-time attendance in Prep gives students the foundation they need for successful learning in Year 1.

To be eligible for Prep a child must turn 5 years old by 30 June in the year they start Prep.

#### Flexibility to delay entry into Prep

Most children commence Prep in the year they become eligible, however parents who are concerned their child is not ready to start Prep at that time can choose to start their child a year later – the year they become of compulsory school age (6 years and 6 months).

Parents should discuss their concerns with the principal of the school in which they plan to enrol their child.

Parents of compulsory school age children have a legal obligation to ensure that their children are enrolled in school and attend for every day of the educational program in which they are enrolled.

Enrolment in, and full-time attendance at Prep, fulfils this obligation.

Children can commence Prep in the year they become eligible or when they are of compulsory school age.

**For more information,**  
visit [www.qld.gov.au/flyingstart](http://www.qld.gov.au/flyingstart)



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### Flexibility to delay entry to Prep

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

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

Prep is a full-time, five day per week program, and it is expected that students attend every day unless there is a legitimate reason to be away, such as illness.

With the introduction of the new Australian Curriculum in 2012, full-time attendance in Prep gives students important foundational learnings that they will need for successful learning in Year 1. No Queensland child can afford to miss out on this important year.

#### 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 parents be concerned their 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).

A listing of all schools in Queensland and their contact details is available from the school directory on the Department of Education, Training and Employment's website <http://education.qld.gov.au/directory/schools/index.html>

For more information, visit [www.qld.gov.au/flyingstart](http://www.qld.gov.au/flyingstart) or call 1800 4 KINDY (1800 454 639).