

AUSTRALIA

FAMILY STAGE

PARENT GUIDE

AIRBOTIX FAMILY GUIDES

# Adelaide preschool and Reception timeline

**3-year-old, year-before-school and primary school admission dates and application steps**

This guide helps Adelaide 3–5 year old families identify 3-year-old preschool, year-before-school preschool and government Reception pathways by birth date and know where to look first, who to contact and what to prepare today.

Verified version on July 11, 2026

Adelaide 3–5 year old family



# 01

## Quick answer: Don't put the three stages into the same "automatic promotion" timeline

In South Australia, preschool and kindergarten refer to the same stage of education; the first year of primary school is called Reception. But the following three things must be verified separately:

1. **3-year-old preschool (Flying Start):** 2026–2032 phased rollout. Participation in 2026 depends on the child's age, project rules and whether nearby services are already participating. Not all 3-year-old children in Adelaide will automatically have a spot.
2. **Year-before-school preschool:** Determine Term 1, Term 3 or the start of the next year based on the date when the child turns 4 years old; first check the local preschool, and then submit the Registration of Interest (ROI).
3. **Government Reception:** Term 1, Term 3 or the start of the next year will be determined based on the date when the child turns 5 years old; submit ROI to the government primary school, and complete formal enrollment only after receiving the offer.

The safest family action is: **First use the official age information to confirm the year and term, then use the address finder to check the local preschool/school, and finally confirm the intake directly with the service or school.**

# 02

## Age and date decision table

"Year" in the table below refers to the calendar year in which the child reaches the corresponding age in that stage.

Child's birthday	Year-before-school preschool (4 years and older)	Government Reception (5 years and older)	What parents should do
January 1st to April 30th	Term 1 of the current year can start	Term 1 of the current year can start; generally complete 4 terms Reception	Check local service/school in the previous year and submit ROI as early as possible
May 1st to October 31st	Term 3 of the current year can start (mid-year)	Term 3 of the current year can start (mid-year); generally complete 6 terms Reception	Also check the connection between mid-year preschool and mid-year Reception of the next year
November 1st to December 31st	Next year starts	Next year starts	Don't use "Friends of the same age have started" as a backward rule; use official calculator/school written confirmation

For example: If a child turns 4 years old in July 2027, according to the current government preschool rules, he can start year-before-school preschool in 2027 Term 3; if the child turns 5 years old in July 2028, he can start government reception in 2028 Term 3. The policy may be updated and must be reviewed before actual application.

Government primary schools have two main Reception intakes from 2024. Term 1 admission usually requires 4 terms of admission; Term 3 mid-year admission usually requires 6 terms of admission. The SA Department also reminds families planning mid-year reception to consider mid-year preschool in the previous year so that their children can complete the 4 terms of preschool first.

# 03

## 3-year-old preschool: 2026 is staged rollout, not generally available across Adelaide

South Australia's universal 3-year-old preschool rolls out from 2026, and it is not planned to achieve 15 hours per week for all families across the state until 2032. The first phase in 2026 includes partnering long day care services, regional/remote government and other sessional preschools, as well as 3 metropolitan demonstration sites.

For the Adelaide family, these three boundaries must be remembered:

- There are metropolitan participating long day care services in 2026, but you cannot assume that your current childcare is participating.
- Government/other sessional rollout is phased by region: greater Adelaide will be rolled out from 2028, metro Adelaide will be rolled out mainly from 2029 and 2030; there will be 3 metro demonstration sites in 2026 at the same time.
- During the rollout period, the project generally develops towards 15 hours per week, but the service can provide 6–15 hours per week according to capacity; fees are set by the provider. Don't think of future universal entitlement as hours, fees, or place commitments for the current service.

### How to check the path of 3-year-old

1. Open the [Flying Start rollout and service finder](#) ↗.
2. Use the Adelaide suburb where your home is located to search for participating services in that year.
3. If the child is already in long day care, first ask whether the service is a Flying Start partner for that year, when will the child be eligible, and how to register.
4. If your child is not participating in long day care, check nearby government/non-government preschool or other participating services.
5. Confirm the start date, hours, fees, session,

# 04

## Adelaide local search: use address instead of "which one looks like the nearest place"

Open [Find your local school or preschool](#), select enrollment year, and query with the child's primary residential address:

1. First check **Preschool** and record the local catchment, service name and official contact information. 2. Check **Primary / Reception** again and record the local/zoned school, whether it is a shared zone, and the school contact information. 3. Open [Find schools, preschools and other services](#) and review the service profile and contact information. 4. Indicate the child's legal name, DOB, address, target calendar year and Term 1/Term 3 to the preschool/school, and ask the other party to confirm the next step.

Special note for Adelaide families: not all primary schools are zoned; in unzoned outer metropolitan Adelaide, the local school may not be the closest school as shown on the finder page. The map is the official preliminary entrance, not an enrollment guarantee; if you are unsure, please contact the school directly.

It is possible to apply for non-local preschool/school, but place depends on capacity and priority rules. When applying for a non-local school, the Department recommends applying for a local school at the same time to avoid not completing the local path if the non-local application is unsuccessful.

# 05

## Enrolment path: ROI is not equal to offer, offer is not equal to formal enrolment

### A. Year-before-school preschool

1. Confirm that DOB corresponds to Term 1 or Term 3. 2. Use finder to check local preschool. 3. Complete the [Preschool Registration of Interest](#) and submit it to preschool. 4. The Department encourages families to submit ROI by **June 30** of the year before starting preschool; preschools still accept registration throughout the year, including mid-year start. 5. Wait for the email/letter offer; after receiving it, accept it according to the letter deadline, and then fill out the formal enrollment form.

If the local preschool cannot provide a place, the Department explains that the family will be assisted to enroll in another nearby government preschool. When applying to preferred/non-local preschool, don't skip the local pathway.

### B. Government Reception

1. Confirm that DOB corresponds to Term 1 or Term 3. 2. Use finder to check local/zoned government primary school. 3. Contact the school directly, or download the [Reception Registration of Interest form](#). Complete one form for each school you apply to; submitting the form does not guarantee admission. 4. If Reception starts in the next year, the Department encourages submission of ROI before the end of **Term 2** of the current year; late submissions can still apply, but non-local or schools affected by capacity management may have a harder time getting a place. 5. The school usually makes offers about 6 months before the start of the program: Term 1 intake is usually in Term 3 of the previous year, and Term 3 intake is usually in Term 1 of the same year. 6. After accepting the offer, attend the pre-enrolment interview/information session and complete the formal enrollment form.

# 06

## File list: First create an enrolment folder

Prepare basic information before submitting ROI; prepare verifiable documents before accepting offer and formal enrolment. Specific preschools/schools may require additional materials.

- The child's full legal name, date of birth, country of birth and primary residential address.
- Proof of name/birthday: birth certificate/extract, or passport, visa, citizenship certificate, ImmiCard, or other government document listing name and DOB.
- Home address: property contract of sale or recent council rates notice, plus recent gas/electricity bill.
- Rental address: rental agreement, Consumer and Business Services lodged bond receipt, plus recent gas/electricity bill; when affected by enrollment pressure/CMP, the school can require the lease to cover the entire next academic year.
- Current approved immunization evidence for Preschool enrollment.
- Relevant visa information (when applicable).
- Family law, parenting, custody/guardianship or court orders where applicable.
- Health, disability, developmental or other support needs files (when applicable).
- ROI PDF, sent date, receipt, offer and reply deadline.
- Language support requirements: If you need an interpreter,

# 07

## The 8 Most Common Mistakes Adelaide Households Make

1. **Consider the 2026–2032 rollout as the 2026 full Adelaide entitlement:** First check the participating service in that year.
2. **Treat 3-year-old preschool as childcare vacancy:** ask separately about program, care hours, fees, CCS and place.
3. **Treat preschool ROI as enrollment:** ROI, offer, and formal enrollment are three stages.
4. **Ignore May 1 and October 31 boundaries:** Date affects Term 1, Term 3, or the following year.
5. **Only check preschool, not Reception:** Mid-year preschool families should check the mid-year Reception for the next year in advance.
6. **Replace local/zoned school with the nearest school:** especially outer metropolitan Adelaide, please confirm with finder and the school.
7. **Only apply for non-local school:** non-local place depends on capacity; complete the local school path at the same time.
8. **To use other state terms and cutoffs:** NSW Kindergarten, Victoria Foundation, Queensland Prep and WA Pre-primary are not SA Reception rules.

# 08

## Action List You Can Accomplish Today

- Write down the child DOB and calculate the calendar year in which the child turns 3, 4, and 5 years old.
- Use the SA official page to confirm the Term 1/Term 3 path of preschool and Reception.
- Use Adelaide address to check local preschool and local/zoned primary school respectively.
- 3-year-old Flying Start finder for home use Check the participating service in that year.
- Send an email to service/school, specify DOB, address, target year/term, and inquire about ROI and next intake.
- Create an enrollment folder and save ROI, proof of address, immunization records and response deadline.
- Confirm sessions, fees, care connections, language/support requirements and contact person before orientation.
- Reopen the official page before each official submission or acceptance of an offer.

# 09

## Official sources, region boundaries and update notes

This guidance was verified as of **11 July 2026 (AEST)** and only uses the official pages of the Department for Education and Office for Early Childhood Development of the South Australian Government:

- [SA Preschool enrolment ↗](#)
- [Preschool for 3-year-olds ↗](#)
- [Roll-out of 3-year-old preschool ↗](#)
- [Flying Start parent overview ↗](#)
- [Starting school ↗](#)
- [Primary school enrolment ↗](#)
- [Reception Registration of Interest form, February 2026 ↗](#)
- [Find your local school or preschool ↗](#)
- [Placement in school ↗](#)
- [How to get placement in a preschool ↗](#)
- [Confirming enrolment ↗](#)

**State/city boundary:** preschool eligibility, 3-year rollout and government Reception rules belong to the South Australia state-level policies; the Adelaide part only lists these policies in the address, catchment, local school/preschool and participating service queries of the current year. The specific provider/school determines available place, session, orientation, fees and on-site arrangements. The federal government does not have a SA preschool/Reception cutoff.

**Update trigger:** Any changes in 3-year rollout area/service, hours, age/start points, birthday cutoff, Term intake, ROI form, offer timing, finder, zone/catchment, document or immunization rules will require review in this version. When forwarding old PDFs, you should first open the official link for this section

# 10

## About Airbotix Family Guides

Airbotix Family Guides organizes official information into actionable lists based on the city and age issues families are dealing with.

For children aged 3–5, preparation for reception does not mean answering questions in advance or having to learn coding. Families can make more arrangements in their daily lives to build, tell stories, take turns to collaborate, express ideas and complete small works. Airbotix's Story Blocks (5–8) start with stories and building block projects that children can see and do. It is an optional creative learning path after school entry, and is not a prerequisite for preschool or Reception admission.

Learn about courses and more guides: [airbotix.ai](https://airbotix.ai) ↗. For courses, activities or cooperation, you can contact **Rain Sales WeChat**; for questions about policies, eligibility, catchment and enrolment, please use the official entrance above or contact your child's preschool/school.

NEXT STEP

# Choose the right next step

For policy, age and enrollment issues, please return to the official South Australia page or contact the preschool/school directly; courses and home learning directions can be consulted through the Airbotix official website or Rain.

[hello@airbotix.ai](mailto:hello@airbotix.ai)

WEBSITE

## Airbotix official website

View courses and more Airbotix Family Guides.



[airbotix.ai](https://airbotix.ai) ↗

SALES

## Contact Rain

Inquire about Airbotix courses, events and collaborations; Rain is not a government enrolment contact.



[Rain - Sales WeChat](#) ↗

SOURCE

## South Australia official admission portal

Check the latest rules for preschool, Reception age, finder and enrollment.



[SA Department for Education](#) ↗