

SYDNEY

NSW KINDERGARTEN

AGES 3-5

AIRBOTIX FAMILY GUIDES

Sydney Kindergarten cutoff

Date of birth and enrollment timeline

First use the date of birth to determine the optional and latest enrollment year, then check the local public school corresponding to the complete address, and confirm enrollment, orientation and support arrangements with the school.

Verified version on July 11, 2026

Parents and carers of children aged 3-5 in Sydney



01

Quick answer: 31 July is the cutoff of "can start"

The current official rules of the NSW Department of Education are:

- Children who turn 5 years old on or before **July 31st** of a school year can start Kindergarten at the beginning of that year;
- By law, children must enter compulsory schooling by their **6th birthday**;
- Kindergarten is the first year of NSW primary school, not preschool, and do not apply Victoria Foundation or Queensland Prep rules;
- When to start within the allowable range is an individual decision for the family. NSW official advice can be discussed with a preschool teacher, carer, doctor or local primary school.

The most confusing thing here is: **Meeting the 31 July rule means "can start in that year", it does not mean that every eligible child must start that year; but it cannot cross the boundary of compulsory schooling at 6 years old.**

Official entry point: [Starting school ↗](#) · [Starting Kindergarten FAQs \(PDF\) ↗](#)

02

Date of birth to year of admission: first look at this table

The table below is derived from **NSW rules still in effect on 11 July 2026** and is used for planning early admissions 2026–2029.

'Ready to start' is the eligibility window, 'usually no later than the beginning of the year' is to ensure that the child has entered compulsory schooling before their 6th birthday in that year; please check with the target school for final confirmation.

Child's date of birth	Early start Kindergarten	Years families may consider starting school	compulsory schooling boundaries
2021-01-01 to 2021-07-31	Early 2026	2026 or 2027	Must enter compulsory schooling before 6th birthday in 2027
2021-08-01 to 2021-12-31	Early 2027	2027	Must enter compulsory schooling before 6th birthday in 2027
2022-01-01 to 2022-07-31	Early 2027	2027 or 2028	Must enter compulsory schooling before 6th birthday in 2028
2022-08-01 to 2022-12-31	Early 2028	2028	Must enter compulsory schooling before 6th birthday in 2028
2023-01-01 to 2023-07-31	Early 2028	2028 or 2029	Must enter compulsory schooling before 6th birthday in 2029
2023-08-01 to 2023-12-31	Early 2029	2029	Must enter compulsory schooling before 6th birthday in 2029

Years not in the table are calculated using the same method.

1. If the birthday is between **1 January–31 July**: The year when the child turns 5 years old is the earliest year that the child can start; usually the child can start at the beginning of the next year, but cannot enter compulsory schooling later than the 6th birthday. 2.

If the birthday is between **1 August–31 December**: the beginning

03

Determine target year: ask specific questions, don't look for month conclusions

NSW officials do not say "a year later is necessarily better" or "a birth in a certain month must be in the morning". If your child has two optional years, change the question to something that can be observed and answered:

- How do children express their needs, understand daily instructions and participate in activities in group settings?
- What specific strengths and areas for support have been observed by the preschool educator over time?
- Are there health, disability, learning, wellness or emergency plans that need to be planned with the school in advance?
- How do target schools support Kindergarten students at different developmental levels?
- How will the family's childcare/preschool, transportation, sibling and work arrangements affect the two years?
- When a child speaks a language other than English, how does the school collect language background and determine whether EAL/D support is needed?

Record specific examples and draw conclusions directly without using height, one test, individual literacy, or parent anxiety. When developmental or health judgment is required, please consult an appropriate educator or health professional; this guide is not a substitute for individualized advice.

04

Finding a school in Sydney: You must start with your complete address

Kindergarten cutoff is a NSW-wide rule; the next step in true localization for Sydney families is to query local public schools using **full current address**.

1. Open [NSW Public School Finder](#) ↗. 2. Select **Primary school / Kindergarten to Year 6**. 3. Enter the complete home address, not just the suburb or postcode. 4. Save the school name, query date, school official website and contact information. 5. Open the school's official website and search for Enrolment, Kindergarten, Starting school, Open day, Orientation or Transition. 6. Contact the school directly before submitting to confirm the current process, materials and dates.

School Finder is the official search portal for NSW, but page information may change. The NSW Department also reminds that non-local enrollment availability is updated every semester, and the displayed results may not always be the latest. You must contact the school to confirm.

Sydney Boundary Reminder: Council, LGA, suburb, postcode, catchment written in property advertisements and NSW public school intake area are not the same thing. The Council does not determine the Kindergarten cutoff; nor are estate agents or old screenshots a substitute for current School Finder queries.

Official entry point: [NSW Public School Finder](#) ↗ · [Find your school](#) ↗

05

Local and non-local enrolment should not be mixed together

Local public school

Many NSW public schools have designated local enrollment areas that reserve places for students who live in the area. First use School Finder to find the local school, and then prove the child's identity, date of birth and home address as required by the school.

Non-local public school

Families may submit a non-local application to a non-local public school, but this is not an automatic admission:

- Whether a school can accept non-local enrollment depends on enrollment availability;
- Applications must use Online Enrollment or the non-local form provided by the school, and respond to the selection criteria announced by the school;
- When applications exceed available places, the school will process them according to NSW procedures and the school's public criteria;
- 2026 procedures have priority requirements for specific additional needs, current sibling, and incoming Kindergarten children enrolled in public preschool at the same address as the school; families should provide materials based on their true situation and do not infer the results;
- When applying to a non-local school, you should still save the local school entrance and timeline.

Official entry point: [NSW public school enrollment ↗](#) · [Enrolment in Kindergarten to Year 12 procedures ↗](#)

06

Arrange backwards from the target year, without waiting for the "unified deadline for all Sydney"

The NSW Department's Starting Kindergarten FAQ asks parents to contact their local school for enrollment procedures. Officials also stated that each school will arrange enrollment, open day, orientation and community activities according to local conditions, so there is no one that can replace the "Sydney Unified Registration Deadline" confirmed by the school.

Once the target year of admission is determined

- Use School Finder to find local public schools;
- Visit the school's official website and subscribe to the newsletter or the school's public update channel;
- Ask the school when Kindergarten enrollment will be accepted for the year and whether online enrollment or paper forms will be used;
- If considering a non-local school, also request the school's current criteria and schedule;
- Create an application folder and start completing identity, address, immunization and support documents.

One year before admission

- Submit or advance enrollment as directed by the school;
- Ask about open days, school tours, orientation or transition programs;
- Gather specific information from preschool educators to assist with school transition;
- Inform the school of health, disability, learning, wellbeing, family law or emergency support needs as early as possible;

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NSW public school application document list

The new public school enrollment information currently listed on the NSW Primary school enrollment official page includes:

- The child's birth certificate or other identity documents;
- Proof of child's residential address, such as current council rates notice, residential lease, electricity bill;
- Australian Immunization Register (AIR) immunization history statement;
- If applicable, family law or other relevant court orders;
- If the child has health, disability or other support needs, relevant medical/healthcare or emergency action plan, as well as disability, learning and support plans;
- Temporary residents where applicable: passport/travel documents, current and previous visas, current Authority to Enrol (if requested).

When a school approaches or exceeds the local enrollment buffer, the NSW Department's **100-point residential address check** will be used. Don't just bring a random screenshot; ask the school for current requirements and prepare verifiable documentation. The 2026 procedures also allow the principal to reasonably adjust or waive the address check requirement under certain circumstances, such as if the family has recently arrived in Australia, is homeless, or faces other listed circumstances; if necessary, the principal should directly explain the real difficulties to the school.

08

Orientation, EAL/D Communicating with schools: Ask this set of questions directly

Enrolment and orientation

- When will you start processing Kindergarten enrolment for the target years?
- Should I start with Online Enrollment or contact the office first?
- Where will this year's open day, orientation and transition programs be announced?
- What other original documents does the school need to review?
- Who should I contact first with health, disability, learning or wellbeing needs?

Household speaks a language other than English

- Can I use a translated enrolment form to assist in filling it out? Does the final application still need to be completed in English?
- Can the enrollment meeting be arranged with an onsite, online or telephone interpreter?
- How should the home/community language in the application form be filled in truthfully?
- How does the school identify EAL/D learners and explain support to families?
- When an interpreter is needed for orientation or parent meeting, how far in advance should it be requested?

The NSW Department provides a reference version of the multilingual enrollment application and explains that schools will assist parents who are unfamiliar with English; online, onsite and telephone interpreters can be used for school communications such as enrollment and parent meetings. LBOTE does not automatically mean that the child must need EAL/D support. The school will handle it based on the enrollment information and the

09

Common mistakes

1. **Think of Kindergarten as preschool.** This guide refers to the first year of NSW primary school; public preschool has a different set of enrollment rules. 2. **Only remember the "July cutoff", not the complete birthday and school year.** Must look at both 31 July eligibility and 6 year compulsory schooling boundary. 3. **It is believed that a person born in a certain month must have a year in the morning or evening.** Officially, the start time is considered an individual decision and there is no conclusion on the month. 4. **Believe in real estate advertisements or old catchments in parent groups.** Search School Finder with full address and save the date of the search. 5. **Treat School Finder results as completed enrollment.** Inquiring about the school, submitting the application, completing the documents and receiving the outcome are different steps. 6. **It is believed that non-local application is equivalent to admission to selective schools.** Schools are subject to availability, procedures and public criteria. 7. **Wait for orientation before telling the school support needs.** Health, learning, disability, wellbeing, language and family circumstances should be communicated as early as possible. 8. **Look for a unified registration day across Sydney.** Check directly with the local school for enrollment and orientation timelines. 9. **Integrate Catholic or independent school procedures into public schools.** Non-government schools need to go back to their official admissions page to confirm age and time.

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Page Action List

- Write down the child's complete date of birth.
- Use an age chart to mark the earliest starting year and 6-year-old compulsory schooling boundaries.
- If there are two optional years, record the specific observations and arrangements of educator, school and family respectively.
- Select Primary school in School Finder and enter the full address.
- Save local school, query date, official website and office contact information.
- Contact the school to confirm enrollment, open day, orientation and transition for the target year.
- If applying to a non-local school, obtain the current criteria and retain the local school path.
- Prepare applicable items in identity, address, AIR, court order and support documents.
- Request translated information or interpreter if needed, and ask about the EAL/D process.
- records three different states: submitted, documents checked, outcome received.
- Check the school official website and parent notification again before the start of school.



Official source, update time and disclaimer

This version was verified on **11 July 2026 (AEST)** using the following official NSW Government / NSW Department of Education sources:

- [Starting school ↗](#)
- [Starting Kindergarten FAQs \(PDF\) ↗](#)
- [Primary school enrolment ↗](#)
- [NSW Public School Finder ↗](#)
- [Find your school ↗](#)
- [Enrolment in Kindergarten to Year 12 procedures ↗](#)
- [Translated enrolment applications ↗](#)
- [Interpreting and translations ↗](#)
- [EAL/D literacy and numeracy ↗](#)

When must be updated: NSW changes 31 July cutoff, compulsory schooling age, enrollment procedures, School Finder, residential address check, non-local criteria, translated/interpreter services, or the target school changes enrollment/orientation arrangements. Before this guide is forwarded or used in the next school year, you should also reopen the official page for verification.

This information only provides public education information and service paths. It does not provide legal, medical, development assessment, immigration or case admission opinions. It does not decide early or late admission for parents, nor does it guarantee local/non-local enrollment, orientation, EAL/D support or other results. Specific applications are subject to the latest written information from the NSW Department of Education and the target school.

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About Airbotix Family Guides

Airbotix Family Guides organizes local education issues faced by Australian parents into executable steps and official portals. Airbotix is not the NSW Department of Education or a school; applications for admission must be completed through official channels.

As their children begin to explore their extracurricular interests, parents can check out Airbotix's hands-on programs and curriculum at airbotix.ai ↗. Courses are not used to prove school readiness, nor do they affect school admissions; questions about courses, activities or cooperation can be consulted through the Rain contact portal marked in this guide.

NEXT STEP

Save the official entrance and then process the school details

For admission rules and applications, go back to the official NSW page and check with the target school; for more Family Guides, visit the Airbotix official website; for course and activity enquiries, contact Rain.

hello@airbotix.ai

WEBSITE

Airbotix official website

Check out Airbotix and more Family Guides.



airbotix.ai ↗

SALES

Contact Rain

Ask about Airbotix courses, events and collaborations.



[Rain - Sales WeChat](#) ↗

SOURCE

NSW School Finder

Enter your complete address to view local public schools; contact the school directly to confirm before applying.



[NSW Public School Finder](#) ↗