

Preschool education

Programs for 4 year olds, two years prior to Year 1

State/ Territory	Name of program	Hours attended per week	Provider
NSW	Preschool	12 hrs 30 mins a week	Education and Training; Community Services
QLD	Preschool	Up to 12 hrs 30 mins	Education Queensland
	Kindergarten (younger children)	10 hours	C & K Association, funded by Education Queensland, licensed by Dept of Families.
NT	Preschool	12 hrs (10-15)	Employment, Education and Training
WA	Kindergarten	11 hours	Education and Training
SA	Kindergarten	11 hours (4 terms)	Education and Children's Services
ACT	Preschool	10 hrs 30 mins	Education, Youth and Family Services
TAS	Kindergarten	10 hrs	Education
VIC	Preschool	10 hrs	Human Services

Preparatory/Reception programs

Programs for five year olds, one year prior to Year 1

State/ Territory	Name of program	Days attended	Provider
ACT	Kindergarten	5	Education, Youth and Family Services
NSW	Kindergarten	5	Education and Training
NT	Transition	5	Employment, Education and Training
QLD	Pre-school From 2007, will become 'preparing for school' year	5 half days 5 full days from 2007	Education Queensland
SA	Reception	5	Education and Children's Services
TAS	Preparatory	5	Education
VIC	Preparatory	5	Education
WA	Pre-primary	5 (from 2002)	Education and Training

Age of entry into pre-school and school programs

State/ Territory	Entry age into preschool (2 years before Year 1)	Entry age into preparatory (one year before Year 1)	Entry age into Year 1	Compulsory starting age
TAS	4 by 1 January	5 by 1 January (compulsory)	6 by 1 January	5 th birthday
VIC	4 by 30 April	5 by 30 April	6 by 30 April	6 th birthday
ACT	4 by 30 April	5 by 30 April	6 by 30 April	6 th birthday
WA	4 by 30 June (commenced 2001)	5 by 30 June (commenced 2002)	6 by 30 June (commenced 2003)	Start of year in which child reaches 6 yrs & 6 mths
NSW	4 by 31 July	5 by 31 July	6 by 31 July	6 th birthday
NT	Continuous entry after 4 th birthday	5 by 30 June. Continuous intake terms 1-2, last at start term 3	6 by 30 June, after minimum 2 terms in transition.	6 th birthday
SA	Entry in term after 4 th birthday	Entry into Reception class in term after 5 th birthday	Single entry in January after 2-5 terms in Reception depending on initial entry	6 th birthday
QLD	4 by 31 December (C & K programs- kindergarten) <i>4 by 30 June from 2006</i>	5 by 31 December - sessional preschool program <i>5 by 30 June from 2007</i>	6 by 31 December <i>6 by 30 June from 2008</i>	6 th birthday <i>Start of year in which child reaches 6 yrs & 6 mths</i>

Source: Department of Education and Training, Western Australia,
<http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/> November 2003. (modified)