

Early Years Teaching

About Preparatory Schooling

When will the Preparatory Year start in Queensland?

From 2007, Queensland will introduce a non-compulsory, full-time preparatory year followed by an increase in the school starting age in 2008. The preparatory year will be phased in at 40 more state schools and up to 10 non-state schools, bringing the total number of schools with the new preparatory year to 116 by 2006.

How will the new preparatory year change the school starting age?

From 2008, the compulsory school starting age will increase by six months. Children must be six by 30 June in the year that they enrol in Year One. Presently, children start Year One if they turn six any time during that year.

Why have a Preparatory Year of schooling?

It is intended that Queensland's new Preparatory Year will provide all young Queenslanders the very best start to school by helping them make a smooth transition to Year 1 and setting them on the path to lifelong learning.

It will provide the foundation your child's success at school requires by developing:

- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- thinking and problem-solving skills
- language skills
- early literacy and numeracy
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills.

When can my child enrol in the Preparatory Year and Year 1?

Birthdates	Eligible for Prep in:	Eligible for Year 1 in:
Child born 1 Jan 2002 -30 June 2002	2007	2008
Child born 1 July 2002 -30 June 2003	2008	2009
Child born 1 July 2003 - 30 June 2004	2009	2010
Child born 1 July 2004 - 30 June 2005	2010	2011

If your child is born between 1 January 2002 and 30 June 2002, he or she will be eligible to attend the new Preparatory Year in 2007. Children born between 1 January and 31 December 2001, including those who complete preschool in 2006 will enrol in Year 1 in 2007.

If you are not sure as to whether your child qualifies for Prep, you can use the following link to work out their eligibility:
<http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/rep.html>

Will all children be able to access a Preparatory Year?

All children of appropriate age will have access to the preparatory year. From 2007, the full-time preparatory year will be offered in all State Schools and will replace the part-time preschool system that is not available at all schools. There will be no waiting list for the preparatory year as it will be available to all children attending State Primary Schools. It is anticipated that the Preparatory year will be offered in all non-state primary schools. If you intend to enrol your child in a non-state school, you should ask the school whether it will offer a preparatory year. The Government has provided \$395 million for refurbishing existing classrooms and building new classrooms, where needed, in State and Non-State schools so all Queensland schools are ready for the preparatory year.

What will happen to Preschool?

Prep will replace preschool in Queensland from 2007. Children born in 2001 will be the last group to attend State Preschools.

Should you have any further questions or queries, please find following some helpful links you may choose to access:

- Visit the ETRF website on <http://www.education.qld.gov.au/etrf/etrf.html>
- Subscribe to Education Queensland's email updates at <http://www.education.qld.gov.au/community/service/news/>

Email etrfimplementation@qed.qld.gov.au
Links for Early Childhood Webpages
<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/index.php>

<http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/etrf.html>

<http://zerosei.comune.re.it/inter/reggiochildren.htm>