



Prep Entry Age

How old does my child need to be to start Prep?

The current and continuing age requirement for entry into Prep is that students must turn five by June 30th in the year they are in Prep.

I have heard this is changing to July 31st is this correct?

An amendment to the Education Act has allowed for the **possibility** of early entry for some students who will turn five by July 31st in the year they are in Prep, however that entry is conditional on the principal also being satisfied that they are ready for schooling in terms of:

- aptitude and ability; and
- social and emotional competence; and
- physical development; and
- level of knowledge and understanding

This is not a change for all children born in July and it is certainly not compulsory to send your child to Prep if he or she turns five during July.

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 (turning 5 by June 30th), 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).

Who can I talk to about this?

If you have questions or concerns about your child's readiness for Prep you can speak with your child's Kindergarten teacher or the principal of the school where you plan to enrol your child for Prep.

How does the Queensland Prep starting age compare with other states?

Starting age by state for the foundation year	
New South Wales (5 by 31 July) Kindergarten	One month younger
Queensland (5 by 30 June) Preparatory Western Australia (5 by 30 June) Pre-Primary Northern Territory (5 by 30 June) Transition	Current age for entry
Victoria (5 by 30 April) Preparatory South Australia (5 by 30 April) Reception ACT (5 by 30 April) Kindergarten	Two months older
Tasmania (5 by 1 January) Preparatory	Six months older

It is worth noting that children from all states complete the same Australian Curriculum.

