



# Robertson State School

Creating Brighter Futures Together



## EARLY ENTRY

### **What is Early Entry?**

Early Entry is a variation to school aged entry when a student's ability, aptitude and developmental capacities suggest an alternative placement to regular age-based enrolment is required to maximise their learning.

All Queensland children are eligible to enter Prep if they turn 5 years by June 30 in the year they propose to attend Prep.

### **Can a student be given Early Entry to Prep?**

Early entry to Prep is only possible if the child meets all the legislative conditions set out in Part 4, Section 17 of the [Education \(General Provisions\) Regulation 2017](#) .

A child who is younger than the prescribed age for Prep is only able to commence school early if:

- they turn 5 years by 31 July in the year they propose to attend Prep **and** the school principal is satisfied that the child is ready for education in the Prep year  
or
- they have started education in another state or country that is equivalent to the Prep year **and** the school principal is satisfied that the child is ready for education in the Prep year.

A program that is equivalent to the Prep year is a program that is full-time, school-based, and has a defined curriculum in the year prior to Year 1.

A parent who is interested in early entry to Prep should contact the school where they wish to enrol their child to discuss the requirements with the school principal or a member of the school's senior management team.

For further information regarding the application process for early entry to Prep:

- [Queensland early entry to Prep framework \(PDF, 2.6MB\)](#) [\(DOCX, 32KB\)](#)
- [Queensland early entry to Prep framework overview \(PDF, 110KB\)](#) [\(DOCX, 28KB\)](#)
- [Considerations and application process for early entry to Prep \(PDF, 621KB\)](#) [\(DOCX, 17.6KB\)](#)



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## How can Early Entry to Prep be achieved?

A formal application must be made and nomination is usually by the parent/carer.

At Robertson, several steps are recommended for you to follow:

1. Familiarise yourself with the early entry to Prep framework and information
2. Contact the school principal, to express interest in early entry.
3. An interview time is usually arranged for the parent/carer to meet the principal and the Gifted Education Coordinator to discuss why early entry is being sought. The early entry process, requirements and timelines are explained as well as contact details exchanged.
4. The parent/carer should enrol the student in Prep on the advertised enrolment day.
5. Begin collecting information to provide evidence for early entry to Prep e.g. completed early entry Application Form, copy of child's birth certificate, psychometric testing results, completed Saylor checklist, portfolio of work samples.
6. In term 4, attend the Briefing Session for the Early Entry Experience Day. Submit your student's portfolio.
7. The student attends the Early Entry Experience day. The student will participate in a Prep classroom for a day providing Robertson staff and the Senior Guidance Officer the opportunity to interact and observe the student. Some feedback is usually given at the end of the day but this is dependent on the number of students seeking EE and time available.
8. A recommendation is made to the Executive Director Schools (EDS) by the senior Guidance officer and our school panel. The EDS makes the final decision and parents are usually informed of the decision within a fortnight of the Early Entry Experience Day.



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## Early Entry to Prep

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***Have Prep enrolment dates changed to include all July-born children?***

No. Queensland children must still turn 5 years of age by 30 June in the year they start Prep. However, legislation allows parents of a child who turns 5 by 31 July to apply for early entry to Prep. A July-born child is not guaranteed early enrolment. Early entry to Prep is an exception, where it is in the best interests of the child and they have the required attributes.

#### ***Where are application forms available for early entry to Prep?***

You will need to meet with the principal (or senior leadership team member) to discuss early entry requirements and the application process before receiving an application form. Application forms are available only at the school.

#### ***Will applying to more than one school increase the chances of my child being accepted?***

No. All state schools will use the same criteria for assessing your child's readiness for Prep. It is in your child's best interests to select the school that you would like him or her to attend and make a time to meet with the principal (or senior leadership team member) of that school to discuss your child's attributes.

#### ***Is there a due date to apply for early entry to Prep?***

No, however, state schools are likely to delay processing early entry to Prep applications until later in the year, when children have had more time to develop the required attributes. Ideally, applications for early entry to Prep should be made in September/October to enable sufficient time for assessment, and to prepare your child for attending school or continuing in an early childhood education and care program. The school will be able to provide advice on its specific processing timeframes.

#### ***Can early entry acceptance at one state school be transferred to another state school?***

No. You should apply to the school you would like your child to attend and a decision will be made by that school's principal. There is no automatic entitlement to transfer early entry to Prep enrolments because the child is not of eligible school age. If you move to another location and still want your child to commence Prep early, you will need to contact the principal at the proposed new school and apply through the same early entry to Prep application process.



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## ***Will the school contact my child's Kindergarten teacher to discuss the child's attributes?***

Not without your permission. As a parent, you can provide the school with information that the Kindergarten teacher may have given to you about your child, for example samples of your child's work, as evidence to inform the principal's decision.

If your child has been enrolled in a Queensland Government approved and funded kindergarten program, prior to your early entry to Prep application you may like to request a kindergarten transition statement from the kindergarten teacher. A kindergarten transition statement is usually developed in November of the Kindergarten year for all children enrolled in an approved and funded kindergarten service who will attend Prep the following year.

The transition statement is a summary of your child's progress in the kindergarten year.

You will receive a transition statement parent/carer consent form with your child's transition statement. You can consent to the kindergarten passing on your child's transition statement. You can also consent to the school and kindergarten contacting one another to have further discussions that might support your child's start to school.

## ***If my child is accepted as an early entrant to Prep, can it be on a trial basis?***

No. There are no 'trials' for schooling. If you are considering a trial period, it may be an indication that you are concerned your child may not cope with Prep. If this is the case, then it may be in the child's best interests to enrol them at the time they become age eligible for Prep.

## ***If my child isn't accepted for early entry to Prep, what are the alternatives for their education?***

All Queensland children are encouraged to participate in a government-approved kindergarten learning program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher in the year before Prep.

If your child is not accepted for early entry to Prep, there are a variety of options:

- A quality early childhood education and care program provides children with learning opportunities to develop their physical, social, intellectual, language and emotional abilities – helping to prepare children for their transition to school.
- E-kindy is available for children who live in remote locations and can't physically attend a Kindergarten.

Funding is provided to approved kindergarten program providers to deliver kindergarten programs and parents may qualify for additional subsidies depending on their circumstances.



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For more information, visit <https://ged.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/families/kindy>.

***Can I change my mind about early entry to Prep after an application is submitted?***

Yes. If you decide not to proceed with an early entry to Prep application or enrolment, notify the principal of the school where the application was made as soon as possible.

***If the principal determines that my child is not eligible for Prep, can I seek an internal review of the decision?***

No. The principal is responsible for the enrolment decision and the decision is not internally reviewable.