



Transition FAQs for parents of children and young people with a disability

What are the preschool/schooling options for my child?

Children and students with a disability or complex needs must be given the same opportunities for education as other children and students. They can attend a mainstream preschool or school. There are also a range of specialised education options for preschool and school children and students which are outlined below.

Preschool Options:

Children must be enrolled in a preschool and deemed as eligible to attend a specialised preschool option. Preschools, kindergartens, children's centres and early learning centres all provide preschool services for children with disability including Inclusive Preschool Programs, Speech and Language Programs, The Briars preschool, Kilparrin Early Learning centre and Klemzig AUSLAN preschool.

Specialised Education Options:

Inclusive Preschool Programs, The Briars Preschool and Kilparrin Early Learning Centre support children with disability and/or complex needs to improve their learning outcomes within a preschool setting. The programs provide families with a preschool education option for their child that is both local and has specialised educational expertise.

Preschool Speech and Language Programs provide an intensive level of support for children whose severe language or speech impairment is their primary area of need, and who are making slow progress with their current targeted level of speech pathology support.

Klemzig Auslan Preschool and Warradale Kindergarten Inclusive Preschool Programs provide specialised programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Special Classes

Special Classes are located within some primary, area and secondary schools. They provide a setting for students with a disability who need substantial to extensive curriculum adjustments.

Disability Units

Disability Units are located within some primary and secondary schools. They provide a long-term educational option in a local school for students with a disability who require substantial to extensive curriculum adjustments and highly specialised programs. Some Disability Units provide specialised programs that cater for children requiring an intensive self-care and independence focus while others accommodate a broader range of students. There is not always a clear distinction between students in Disability Units and those in other specialised education options.

Special Schools

Special Schools are either co-located with a mainstream school or in stand-alone specialised settings for students who require substantial to extensive curriculum adjustments. They provide a long term significantly individualised pathway with an intensive self-care and independence focus.

What are the steps and who is involved?

There is strong evidence that all children and students benefit from an inclusive classroom and most particularly children with a disability. If there are concerns about your child there are a series of steps to support you, as a parent. **Parents/ carers are informed at every step.**

1. If you are concerned, discuss your concerns about your child learning with the preschool or school leader.
2. You and preschool or school staff develop a personalised learning plan (One Plan) and other relevant people involved with your child. The learning plan includes information collected through observations, professional reports and monitoring of the learning achieved.
3. If your child/student is eligible for the Inclusive Education Support Program and receiving a substantial or extensive level of adjustment, consideration may be given to your child's future learning needs. The preschool or school leader consults with the psychologist or special educator to determine what support for learning is required.
4. With your consent the psychologist considers information about your child's educational needs to inform recommendations about school placement. This information may already exist or may require further investigation and assessment.
5. The psychologist and/or special educator discusses with you and preschool or school leader the recommended specialised education options and explains the panel process.
6. If you are interested in considering a specialised education option placement, a Request to Explore Special Education Option (SE01) form is signed by you and the psychologist and is completed by the preschool or school leader.

What is the process for specialised education option application and placement?

Each specialised education option has a placement process that is clear, transparent and consistent. The application must contain information to ensure eligibility for the specialised education option that is sought. All applications are for consideration through the panel process.

Preschool Specialised Options:

The Briars and Inclusive Preschool Programs:

Application due date week 3 Term 4 for consideration for placement.

Kilparrin Early Learning centre and Klemzig AUSLAN preschool – offers of placement are made by preschool leaders. If children do not receive an offer, alternative support programs such as the Inclusive Education Support Program (IESP) will be discussed with families.

Speech and language programs:

All documentation is required by the placement panel at the local education office by Friday week 4 of term 4 for placement commencing the following year.

Speech and language classes:

All documentation is required by the placement panel at the local education office by Friday week 5 of term 3 for placement commencing the following year.

Centres for Deaf Education Option:

All documentation is required by the placement panel at the local education office by Friday week 5 of term 3 for placement commencing the following year.

Junior Primary Specialised Education Option:

Application due date for 2021: 21st August, 2020

If your child receives an offer you will be contacted by the school in week 6 of term 2 (week beginning 21st Sep). You will have 2 weeks to visit the school (optional) and respond to the offer.

Primary Specialised Education Options:

Application due date for 2021: 31st July, 2020

If your child receives an offer you will be contacted by the school in week 6 of term 2 (week beginning 31st Sep). You will have 2 weeks to visit the school (optional) and respond to the offer.

Secondary Specialised Education Options: in term 4 of the previous year or term 1 of your child's final year at primary school, in consultation with you and as eligibility is recommended by the psychologist, an application to **explore** a specialised education option placement may be discussed.

Application due date: the last day of term 1

If your child receives an offer you will be contacted by the school in week 6 of term 2. You will have 2 weeks to visit the school (optional) and respond to the offer.

Secondary Education Options:

Year Level/Mainstream – towards the end of term 1 your child's last year in primary school, the school will inform you of the online form for completion. In term 3 you will receive an information pack about the secondary school where your child will be offered placement. **NB.** If you are changing residence it is advisable to complete and submit your forms as soon as possible

DATES FOR 2022 WILL BE UPDATED AS THE INFORMATION IS CONFIRMED

Placement Offers

Placement is decided consistently and equitably by a panel process.

When considering offers of placement, home location and parent preference such as siblings already at the school, will be taken into account. The number of existing vacancies in an option will also be a factor in determining the number of placement offers made.

Children and students may only be offered a placement that provides the level of adjustment. The panel chair will inform the preschool, children's centre or school leader in writing of the placement process outcomes. This will include those applications that have been successful and those where an offer has not yet been made. Any decisions outside of this must be considered on a case by case basis.

Enrolment

Can I go and visit specialised education options in my local area?

Yes, once you receive a letter of offer of placement in a specialised education option you may contact the preschool or school to arrange a time to visit.

Can I enrol my child directly in the local specialised education option?

No. If the Department Psychologist recommends an eligibility diagnosis for a specialised education option a "Request to Explore Special Education Option SEO1" application is submitted to the local Education Office panel. All special option offers are made by the panel and forwarded to the preschool/primary school leader to provide to you. However, you can enrol your child directly at your local preschool or school for a mainstream year level class.

Can I enrol my child directly in Secondary school ?

No, year level applications are made on-line. You will be informed by the primary school which secondary school your child will be attending.

What if my child does not receive a specialised education option offer?

In general there are several rounds of specialised education option offers. If your child does not receive an offer, your child's current and new preschool or school will discuss and document your child's needs and implement an agreed transition plan. You will be involved in these discussions.

This is a big decision - who can I talk to?

Your child's preschool or school is always your first point of contact.

Should you require additional information you can contact your local Education Office and ask to speak to the Special Educator who supports your child's preschool or school?

Metropolitan Offices:

Adelaide Hills: 8391 4705

Eastern Adelaide: 8366 8800

Elizabeth South: 8204 8204

Northgate Anangu: 8359 4626

Northern Adelaide: 8314 4000

Southern Adelaide: 8207 3700

Western Adelaide: 8416 7333

Websites that may be of interest:

Department for Education <http://www.education.sa.gov.au/>

Raising Children <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

Siblings Australia <https://siblingsaustralia.org.au/>



Government of South Australia

Department for Education