

General information on NT Government early childhood education

The Northern Territory (NT) Government is committed to providing all children and families with access to quality early childhood education in the years before full-time schooling. The Department of Education (department) provides a range of quality early childhood education programs for children aged 0-5 years. Early childhood education can help your child make friends, develop independence and learn new routines. It also supports children and families to transition into school.

Some facts

Families as First Teachers (FaFT)

FaFT delivers quality early learning and parent support programs to children aged 0-4 years and their families. It develops place-based programs to engage families and communities, and build parents' capacity to give their children the best start in life.

FaFT programs are operated through schools across the NT, primarily in very remote communities.

Preschool

The NT Government is committed to ensuring that every child has access to 600 hours of a preschool program equivalent to 15 hours per week in the twelve months prior to full-time schooling.

Preschool is a play-based education and care program that reflects the principles, practices and learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework.

- Children who turn four years of age, on or before 30 June, can commence preschool at the beginning of the school year.
- Children who turn four after 30 June are eligible to enrol in a preschool program after their birthday if places are available and with the understanding the child will access more than 12 months of preschool.
- Children in a very remote area can attend preschool from the age of three. Parents may accompany their child and remain with them at each preschool session if they choose. This can assist both children and families to transition into the school environment.
- Preschool aged children enrolled in FaFT must also be enrolled in preschool and will be supported to regularly attend the preschool program. Parents may accompany their child and remain with them at each preschool session if they choose. This can assist both children and families to transition into the school environment.

Transition

Transition is a full-time program that is delivered using the Australian Curriculum. Transition is a planned, play-based learning and development program that is informed by the principles, practices and learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework.

Children who turn five years of age on or before 30 June of the school year are eligible to enrol in transition at the commencement of that school year.

Children who turn five years of age after 30 June of the school year are eligible to enrol in transition from the commencement of the following school year.

If a child is enrolled in a preschool program with the same school, they do not need to complete the enrolment form again.

Enrolment forms

To enrol your child in FaFT, preschool or transition, you must complete a Student enrolment form online or in person at the school you wish your child to attend.

The Supplementary preschool enrolment form must also be completed for each FaFT and preschool enrolment.

To access enrolment forms go to the department's Enrol your child at school webpage or visit your local school. School staff will assist families to complete these enrolment forms where required.

Priority enrolment areas

A school's priority enrolment area is the residential area in a school's catchment.

Students residing within a priority enrolment area will have priority placement within the school over children who reside outside of the enrolment area. This includes enrolment in preschool and transition programs.

Parents should contact the school in their priority enrolment area to enrol their child. Visit the NT Government's Choose a school webpage.

Useful information

- Early childhood – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/early-childhood>
- Early childhood support for remote children and families – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/early-childhood/early-childhood-support-for-remote-children-and-families>
- Enrolling your child at school – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/enrol-your-child-at-school>
- Find a school – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/choose-a-school>