

EARLY ENTRY FOR MOBILITY

Early Entry Mobility is for children who fall outside of the ACT age cut off and have parents in mobile employment positions, especially Australian Defence Force personnel. Families may apply for their child to access an ACT Public School preschool or kindergarten to ensure their child is not disadvantaged due to the mobile nature of their parent's employment.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration under this procedure:

- Children must turn four years of age before 31 July to commence preschool at the start of the school year. Children younger than this will not be eligible for Early Entry Mobility consideration.
- Children must turn five years of age before 31 July to commence kindergarten at the start of the school year.
- Parent's tenure of employment in the ACT must be three years or less, and that as part of their employment, they will be relocating outside of the ACT within the next three years to a jurisdiction that has a different education starting age.

Please note that early entry is not available to dependents of temporary residents.

INFORMATION

Families should consider their child's age when applying for Early Entry and their ability to manage socially and emotionally in the year cohort for which they are applying.

When applying for kindergarten, families who have accessed a system of education with an earlier starting age than the ACT and have moved to the ACT permanently, it is likely that children will enter into the same age cohort as their peers in the ACT. These families can request consideration for Early Entry under the same requirements as above, excluding employer evidence. Any applications made under these circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

Families are required to write to the Manager, Early Childhood, outlining their request for Early Entry. This letter should clearly state the child's date of birth, year applying for Early Entry and the nature and tenure of the parent's employment.

Early Entry Applications must include:

- Proof of age of the child (e.g. copy of birth certificate or passport)
- Proof of residency in the ACT (e.g. utility bill)
- Evidence from the parent's employer stating the length of time of the posting to the ACT.
- Families should include relevant documentation from previous schooling, if applicable, to support their application. This may include, but is not limited to, evidence of the child's social development and ability to manage in a group setting.
- International families must provide documentation detailing the starting age for compulsory education in the public education system of their home country.

Requests for Early Entry should be forwarded to:

Manager, Early Childhood
ACT Education and Training Directorate
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

Email: DET.Consultation@act.gov.au.

Early Entry applications are reviewed by the Manager, Early Childhood. It is anticipated that parents will be notified approximately two to four weeks from date of submission.

APPEALS PROCESS

Should a family disagree with the decision a request for a review can be made to the Early Entry Appeals Panel.

The Early Entry Appeals Panel is comprised of the Director, Learning and Teaching and a Senior Manager of the Learning and Teaching Branch. The Panel will consider the original application and any additional information that families may choose to provide.