

EARLY ENTRY FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

Children identified as Gifted and Talented may be eligible for Early Entry at an ACT Public School preschool or kindergarten, and commence formal education a year earlier than their age cohort.

This procedure aligns with the [Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014](#).

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration under this procedure the child:

- must be three years of age to commence preschool, with a date of birth falling before 30 April. Children younger than this will not be eligible for Early Entry for Gifted and Talented consideration
- must be four before 30 April to commence kindergarten
- must be identified as gifted through a psychological assessment, and achieve a 'Very Superior' rating across all assessments in cognitive functioning.

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

INFORMATION

Identifying giftedness in a preschool aged child is complex. Early Entry is determined by a child being rated as 'Very Superior' across all assessments in cognitive functioning on a universally accepted diagnostic tool (psychological assessment). Families will need to seek an independent child psychologist to perform this assessment.

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.

Additional information will be used to support the application and to ascertain emotional and social readiness. This may include subjective and objective indicators, teacher/parent nomination or checklists, interview transcripts, anecdotal evidence and student work.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

Families are required to write to the Manager, Early Childhood, outlining their request for 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)
- Psychological Assessment conducted by a registered psychologist

- Evidence from any relevant educators and/or professionals which demonstrates the child's advanced development.
- Additional information provided by parents.

Requests for Early Entry should be forwarded to:

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

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

Early Entry applications are reviewed by the Manager, Early Childhood, and a Senior Psychologist. It is anticipated that parents will be notified approximately four to six 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, a Senior Psychologist and a Principal. The Panel will consider the original application and any additional information that families may choose to provide.