

EARLY ENTRY FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

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

This procedure aligns with the Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration under this procedure the child:

- must be three years of age by 30 April to commence preschool. Children younger than this are not eligible for consideration under the Early Entry for Gifted and Talented Children procedure
- must be four years of age by 30 April to commence kindergarten
- must have an interpretable Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) of 130 and above, as shown by a cognitive assessment undertaken by a Psychologist registered in Australia.

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 assessed as having an FSIQ of 130 and above. Families will need to seek an independent Psychologist registered in Australia to perform this assessment.

Financial support for cognitive assessment is available to eligible families with a low income Health Care Card issued by the Australian Government. Please email EDU.Consultation@act.gov.au for more 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.

PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

Families are required to write to the Assistant Director, Learning and Teaching Policy and Service Design (Early Childhood), outlining their request for Early Entry.

Applications must include:

- a completed application form
- proof of birth date of the child (e.g. copy of child's birth certificate or passport)
- proof of residency in the ACT (e.g. utility bill)
- proof of parent/guardian Australian citizenship or residency (e.g. birth certificate, passport, or visa)
- report of a cognitive assessment, undertaken by a Psychologist registered in Australia, showing the child has an interpretable FSIQ of 130 and above.

Updated April 2021

Requests for Early Entry should be forwarded to EDU.Consultation@act.gov.au

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 will comprise:

- Senior Director, Learning and Teaching Policy and Service Design
- Senior Director, Clinical Practice
- Directorate staff with qualifications in Gifted and Talented education, as required.