

School Name:

Contact Number:

Is your child ready for Year 1?

The following information is provided to help parents and schools decide the best educational placement for a child eligible to enrol in Year 1 in 2007.

Most children leave preschool and early education programs excited about school and ready to go on to Year 1 with their friends.

Preschool builds children's self-confidence, social skills, and their early literacy and numeracy. It teaches them to get on with others and to take risks, and encourages a love of learning. Most children leave preschool feeling good about going to school and with the knowledge, skills and attitude to succeed.

Preschool teachers work closely with primary schools to prepare children for this transition into Year 1.

Many children born in 2001 will have attended preschool or a similar program in 2006 and will be keen to start Year 1 in 2007. However, some children may not be ready, and Prep might be the best educational option for them in 2007.

As a parent or carer, if you think your child may not be ready to start Year 1 in 2007 you should first speak with your child's preschool teacher or kindergarten or childcare personnel, then discuss your child's needs with the school principal.

If you then decide you want to apply to enrol your child in Prep, an assessment process has been developed to determine if Prep is the best placement for 2007. Your school principal can provide you with the application form or you can download a form from the Internet www.education.qld.gov.au/prep. Completed forms should be returned to the **state school** by **20 June 2006**. You will be contacted to discuss your application.

The application will take into account your child's readiness to start Year 1. Readiness refers to your child's development in two areas:

- **learning readiness**, which includes the child's:
 - interest in learning
 - oral language (expressive language/vocabulary)
 - receptive language (following directions/comprehension)
 - attention to and engagement with tasks
 - concept development (size, pattern, position, time, number, print)
 - capacity to solve problems
 - reasoning and hypothesising.
- **physical and social development**, which includes the child's:
 - social awareness and connections
 - emotional capacity
 - independence
 - age and physical capacity relative to cohort i.e. size, health
 - fine and gross motor skills.

The assessment may be based on information from a number of sources including parents, preschool teachers, kindergarten or childcare personnel, and guidance officers.

Enrolment in the Prep year will only be considered if the assessment clearly indicates that the child is not ready to enrol in Year 1 and would benefit from being in the Prep program in 2007.

How to apply for enrolment in Prep in 2007

Who can apply?

- Parents and carers of children born in 2001 may apply for enrolment in the Preparatory Year in 2007 on the basis of educational needs.

How to prepare an application?

- You should first discuss the proposed application with the local school principal, preschool teacher, childcare staff or kindergarten director. These people may be able to provide information for you to include with your application about your child's learning readiness and social and physical development.
- You may get other people to help you make the application, or prepare it for you.
- In your application, you should state the **reasons** why you believe your child would not be ready for Year 1 and the **facts** that support your case. In your description you may cover features such as learning readiness, and physical, emotional or social development.
- The application form is available from your local school or can be downloaded from the Internet at www.education.qld.gov.au/prep . Your application is not restricted to one page.
- If you need assistance or would like further details about the assessment process, please contact your local school. If you are not comfortable making a written application, an independent third party will be available to take notes and produce an agreed-upon record.
- If your child has not attended a preschool or kindergarten you could include a report from an appropriate professional — for example, a paediatrician, to support your application.
- You can only apply to enrol at one state school.

When and where should I send my application?

- You should return your application to the school by **20 June 2006**. The school will forward it to the Executive Director (Schools) for your District.

How does the application progress?

- The state school principal will discuss applications with the Executive Director (Schools), who has responsibility for final approval. A Senior Education Officer may contact you to discuss your application.
- Once a decision has been made to approve or reject the application, you will be notified in writing of the decision by **31 August 2006**.

If approved, can I change my mind about enrolling my child in Prep in 2007?

- Yes. As 2007 approaches and your child finishes preschool or kindergarten, you may reconsider if you think that your child is ready for Year 1 in 2007. Contact the school to enrol your child in Year 1.