



Early childhood teacher requirements

November | 2019

This fact sheet provides a summary of the requirements for centre-based services educating and caring for children of preschool age or under. The regulations referred to are from the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*.

What are the requirements?

Approved number of places/ children in attendance	Requirements for early childhood teacher	Access to early childhood teacher
Fewer than 25 approved places (r. 130)	The service must have access to an early childhood teacher working with the service for at least 20% of the time that the service provides education and care.	The early childhood teacher <i>may be working with your service by means of information and communications technology</i> . You can calculate the period an early childhood teacher works with your service on a quarterly basis.
25 or more approved places but fewer than 25 children being educated and cared for (r. 131)		
25 or more children being educated and cared for on a given day (rr. 132-134)	<p>An early childhood teacher must be in attendance at the service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 6 hours on that day, if the service operates for 50 or more hours a week <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of operating hours of the service on that day, if the service operates for fewer than 50 hours a week. <p>These requirements do not apply if your service employs or engages a full-time (or full-time-equivalent*) early childhood teacher at your service.</p>	<p>An early childhood teacher is in attendance at the service if the teacher is physically present at the service and carrying out education and care activities at the service, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> working directly with children planning programs mentoring, coaching or supporting educators facilitating education and care research performing the role of educational leader of the service (referred to in r. 118) to lead the development and implementation of educational programs in the service.

*Full-time equivalent means the number of hours a full-time employee would work in that role in accordance with the relevant award they are employed under.

Are you a declared early childhood teacher?

You are taken to hold an approved early childhood teaching qualification if, immediately before 1 January 2012, you either:

- were recognised under the former education and care services law, or for the purposes of a preschool funding program, and were employed as an early childhood teacher
- held a qualification that is published under r. 137(2)
- were registered as a teacher under the *Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 (SA)* and employed to deliver a preschool program
- were enrolled in a course for a qualification that is published under r. 137(2) and upon completion of this course.

This is covered in r. 241.

Transitional provisions for early childhood teachers

The Education and Care Services National Regulations contain a transitional provision for a person to be taken to be an early childhood teacher. This provision applies on and after 1 January 2014 and before 31 January 2021 (r. 242).

Eligibility to be recognised as equivalent to an early childhood teacher applies to a person who:

- is actively working towards an approved early childhood teaching qualification*

AND

- provides the approved provider with documentary evidence that they have completed at least 50% of the course or holds an approved diploma-level education and care qualification.

*To be actively working towards an approved early childhood teaching qualification you must do all of the following:

- be enrolled in a course for the qualification
- have commenced the course
- be making satisfactory progress towards completion
- meet the requirements to maintain enrolment.

Newly updated approved early childhood teaching qualification

Independent national authority ACECQA has updated the list of approved early childhood teaching qualifications to enable more people to be taken to be an early childhood teacher. This includes a person to whom all of the following applies:

- holds a primary teaching qualification that has a focus on children aged 5 to 8 years old (e.g. a qualification with a focus on children aged 3 to 8 or 5 to 12 years)

- is registered by the Teachers Registration Board (TRB)
- holds an approved education and care diploma or higher qualification published on ACECQA's qualification lists.

Do I have to be registered as a teacher?

Yes. In order to be employed in South Australia as a teacher in a school, preschool or long day-care service, you must be registered with the TRB.

If your service employs an early childhood teacher, you need to ensure that the person is registered as a teacher or has authorisation from the TRB to practice as a teacher.

Any person engaged as an early childhood teacher should not commence employment until they are registered as a teacher or have authorisation from the TRB to practice as a teacher. TRB considers each application on a case-by-case basis to determine whether teacher registration requirements are met or an authorisation can be granted to practice as a teacher.

Information relating to the teacher registration process, including the application form, can be found on the TRB website at www.trb.sa.edu.au.

If there are any issues about requirements for teacher registration for the person employed as an early childhood teacher, please contact the TRB office:

Email: professionalstandards@trb.sa.edu.au

Phone: 8226 3497 or 8226 5977 and speak to a professional standards project officer.

Contact details

Education Standards Board

Phone: 08 8226 0077 or 1800 882 413

Website: www.esb.sa.gov.au

Email: educationstandardsboard@sa.gov.au