



Preschool Ratios

May | 2018

Definitions of preschools

- **preschool** means a government preschool or a preschool program provided by a non-government school
- **government preschool** means a government operated kindergarten that is a children's services centre within the meaning of the Children's Services Act 1985 of South Australia
- **prescribed preschool** means a preschool provided by a school on the site of a school; or a rural preschool; or a preschool with fewer than 16 children
- **disadvantaged preschool** means a preschool that—
 - a) is provided on a school site by a non-government school or a government preschool; and
 - b) is ranked as Category 1 for disadvantage (for any queries regarding Category rankings please refer to your approved provider)

What are the new requirements in 2016?

General educator ratios (Regulation 327)

From 1 January 2016, the educator to child ratios for preschool aged children attending a preschool will be:

- 1 educator to 11 children, or
- 1 educator to 10 children for disadvantaged preschools and long day care.

Requirements that remain unchanged

Early childhood teacher requirements (Regulation 324)

From 1 January 2014 the first and second educators required to meet the educator to child ratio for preschool age children in a government preschool (other than a prescribed preschool) must be early childhood teachers. From 1 January 2014 the first and third educators required to meet the educator to child ratio for preschool age children in a prescribed preschool must be early childhood teachers.

Qualifications for other educators in preschools (Regulation 126 (1) (b))

All other educators who are required to meet the relevant educator to child ratios must have, or be actively working towards, at least an approved certificate III level education and care qualification.

What does 'actively working towards' mean? (Regulation 10)

To be actively working towards a qualification you need to:

- be enrolled in the course for the qualification; and
- provide the approved provider with documentary evidence from the provider of the course that –
 - you have commenced the course; and
 - are making satisfactory progress towards completion of the course; and
 - are meeting the requirements for maintaining the enrolment.

Information about the definition of 'actively working towards' an approved qualification is available on the ACECQA website at: www.acecqa.gov.au/actively-working-towards-an-approved-qualification.

For certificate III: if you are actively working towards an approved certificate III level education and care qualification you can be included in the educator to child ratios as a certificate III level educator if you:

1. are enrolled in a course for the qualification; and
2. have commenced the course; and
3. are making satisfactory progress towards completion; and
4. meet the requirements to maintain enrolment.

Contact details

Early Childhood Services

Phone: 08 8226 0077 or 1800 882 413

Website: www.esb.sa.gov.au

Email: EducationStandardsBoard@sa.gov.au