Early childhood education program

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# Early childhood education program

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| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Glossary Item |
| Synonymous names: | Preschool program |
| METEOR identifier: | 556834 |
| Registration status: | [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015 |
| Definition: | An early childhood education program is a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a qualified teacher aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full-time schooling, irrespective of the type of institution that provides it or whether it is government funded or privately provided. Programs may be delivered in a variety of service settings including separate preschools or kindergartens, long day care centres, in association with a school etc.The terms most commonly used to describe early childhood education programs which are subject to the NP UAECE in states and territories are:* Kindergarten – Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania.
* Kindergarten or Preschool – Victoria, South Australia.
* Preschool – New South Wales, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory.

A quality early childhood education program is a program which is delivered in the year before full-time schooling by a qualified early childhood teacher, in accordance with the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standard. |

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| Collection and usage attributes |
| Comments: | An early childhood education program may or may not be delivered in such a way that meets the Universal Access goal. The requirements for Universal Access are listed below.The National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education is a commitment to joint Commonwealth, State and Territory action to maintain universal access to quality early childhood education programs.Universal access means that every child, in the year before they commence full-time school, has access to:* quality early childhood education program(s)
* delivered for at least 600 hours per year
* in a form that meets the needs of children, parents and community
* and at a cost that does not present a barrier to participation.
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| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Early Childhood Data Sub Group (ECDSG) |
| Steward: | [Early Childhood Data Sub Group (ECDSG)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/388499) |
| Relational attributes |
| Related metadata references: | Supersedes [Preschool program](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/436132)[Community Services (retired)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/1), Standard 19/09/2013[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 28/05/2014Has been superseded by [Early childhood education program](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/602292)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 05/07/2022 |
| Metadata items which use this glossary item: | [Child—early childhood education program attendance indicator, yes/no code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557001)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—early childhood education program enrolment indicator, yes/no code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557024)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—early childhood education program fees charged per week, total Australian currency N[N(8)]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557048)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—early childhood education program hours attended (per week), total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557063)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—early childhood education program hours enrolled (per week), total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557113)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—early childhood education program received from a qualified teacher indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557140)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—early childhood education program repeater indicator, yes/no/unknown/not stated/inadequately described code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557157)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Child—maximum early childhood education program hours available, total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/556977)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Early childhood education and care contact worker](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/558869)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Early childhood education and care worker cluster](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/575567)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Early childhood education program enrolment hours](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557071)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Maximum early childhood education program hours available per week](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557535)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Person (employed)—role of early childhood education and care worker, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/575557)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Person (employed)—type of work activity, early childhood education and care, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/575562)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—early childhood education program attendance hours, total hours N[NNNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557626)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—early childhood education program delivered by a qualified teacher indicator, yes/no code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/563919)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—early childhood education program weekly tuition fee schedule amount, total Australian currency N[NNNNN].NN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557636)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—government funding type, early childhood education and care, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557209)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—maximum early childhood education program hours available per week, total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557541)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—number of children attending an early childhood education program, total N[NNNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557553)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—number of early childhood education program enrolments, total number N[NNNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557606)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—number of early childhood education program hours enrolled, total hours N[NNNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557617)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—number of early childhood education program service operation weeks (calendar year), total NN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557225)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—number of Indigenous children attending an early childhood education program, total number N[NNNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557582)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—number of Indigenous children enrolled in an early childhood education program, total N[NNNN]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557594)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 01/06/2015[Service provider organisation—organisation identifier, X(15)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/557881)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 28/05/2014 |