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: | 762661 |
| Registration status: | [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022 |
| Definition: | An early childhood education program is a structured, play-based learning program, delivered by a qualified teacher and 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 Preschool Reform Agreement (PRA) in states and territories are:* Kindergarten – Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania.
* Preschool – New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory.

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| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Department of Education |
| Steward: | [Early Childhood Policy Group (ECPG)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763294) |
| Origin: | Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) 2021. Preschool Reform Agreement. Canberra: CFFR, viewed 4 August 2022<https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/agreements/preschool-reform-agreement> |
| Reference documents: | Australian Government (2018). National information agreement on early childhood education and care. Canberra: Australian Government |
| Relational attributes |
| Related metadata references: | Supersedes [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      [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 05/07/2022 |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](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762799)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program attendance indicator, yes/no code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762803)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program enrolment indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762875)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program enrolment indicator, yes/no code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762886)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program fees charged per week](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762949)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program fees charged per week, total Australian currency N[N(8)]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762951)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program hours attended](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763012)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program hours attended (per week), total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763014)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program hours enrolled](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763018)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program hours enrolled (per week), total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763021)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program received from a qualified teacher indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763025)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[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/763027)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program repeater indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763031)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—early childhood education program repeater indicator, yes/no/unknown/not stated/inadequately described code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763033)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—Hours of an early childhood education program received from qualified teacher(s)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763037)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—Hours of an early childhood education program received from qualified teacher(s), Total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763039)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—maximum early childhood education program hours available](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763044)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Child—maximum early childhood education program hours available, total hours N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763047)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education and care contact worker](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763273)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early Childhood Education and Care DSS 2022](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762511)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 15/08/2023[Early Childhood Education and Care DSS 2023](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/772445)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 15/08/2023[Early childhood education and care service activity type code N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762651)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education and care service delivery setting code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763144)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2022](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762547)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Superseded 15/08/2023[Early Childhood Education and Care: Unit Record Level NMDS 2023](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/772443)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 15/08/2023[Early childhood education program attendance hours](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763010)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program attendance indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762855)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program delivered by a qualified teacher indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763146)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program enrolment hours](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763016)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program enrolment indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762873)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program fees charged per week](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/762946)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program received from a qualified teacher indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763023)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Early childhood education program repeater indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763029)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Hours of an early childhood education program received from qualified teacher(s)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763035)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Hours worked in early childhood education program delivery (per week)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763152)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Maximum early childhood education program hours available](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763042)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Person (employed)—hours worked in early childhood education program delivery (per week)](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763154)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Person (employed)—hours worked in early childhood education program delivery (per week), total hours NNN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763156)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Person (employed)—role of early childhood education and care worker, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763252)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Person (employed)—type of work activity, early childhood education and care, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763255)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Quality early childhood education program](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763288)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Service provider organisation—early childhood education program delivered by a qualified teacher indicator](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763148)        [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Service provider organisation—early childhood education program delivered by a qualified teacher indicator, yes/no code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763150)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Service provider organisation—government funding type, early childhood education and care, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763266)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Service provider organisation—management type, early childhood education and care, code N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763268)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Service provider organisation—number of early childhood education program service operation weeks](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763161)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022[Service provider organisation—number of early childhood education program service operation weeks (calendar year), total NN](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/763164)       [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Standard 05/07/2022 |