Child—time attended in reference period, total hours N[NN]{.N}

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# Child—time attended in reference period, total hours N[NN]{.N}

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| Identifying and definitional attributes |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Hours attended by child in reference period |
| METEOR identifier: | 792788 |
| Registration status: | [Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Recorded 16/05/2024 |
| Definition: | The total number of hours a child spent attending an educational institution in a reference period. |
| Data Element Concept: | [Child—time attended in reference period](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/792786) |
| Value Domain: | [Total hours N[NN]{.N}](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/792796) |

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| Value domain attributes |
| Representational attributes |
| Representation class: | Total |
| Data type: | String |
| Format: | N[NN]{.N} |
| Maximum character length: | 3 |
|   | **Value** | **Meaning** |
| Supplementary values: | 999  | Not stated/inadequately described  |
| Unit of measure: | Hour (h) |

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| Collection and usage attributes |
| Guide for use: | Total hours expressed as 0, 1, 1.5 etc. |

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| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare |

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| Data element attributes  |
| Source and reference attributes |
| Submitting organisation: | Department of Education |
| Relational attributes |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [National Preschool Attendance Collection DSS 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/792074)[Early Childhood](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/13), Recorded 16/05/2024***DSS specific information:*** In the National Preschool Attendance Collection (NPAC), this item is used to submit attendance hours for all children who attend at any time during the state specific attendance reference period. In the NPAC, the minimum number of hours allowed to be reported is '1', and the maximum is '720'. Where the number of hours is not stated, '999' should be submitted.**School-based program**The count of attendance hours for children in dedicated preschool (sessional) programs will be based on the length of a session for each child reported as attending, not arrival and departure times. For this count actual session hours will be reported (e.g. duration calculated from session start and end time). Where this is not feasible States will have the option to report an estimate of hours if the estimation methodology is explained and is sound. For example, States or Territories with school‐based delivery may wish to provide attendance data that is consistent with national school attendance reporting business rules. Include hours attended in non-instructional activities such as recess, tea breaks and lunch breaks if the child remained under the supervision of the service provider for these activities.If the child attends more than one preschool program in a given day, non-instructional or waiting times between programs should be excluded in the count of hours.Where the service provider offers other integrated childcare services, the hours associated with these services should be excluded from this data element.**Centre Based Day Care**Attendance hours for a preschool program delivered in a centre based day care should be calculated by recording the child's arrival and departure times from the preschool program. Hours should be derived from these times. |