

Position Description

Early Years of Schooling Partner

Why work with us

Every child and young person deserves a great education.

We have a strategy that aims to unlock every child’s potential now and into the future, one that in partnership with learners, students, parents and the wider South Australian community will build a world-leading public education system. One that is equitable and prioritises learning and wellbeing.

Together we will make our education system the best it can be.

When our children and young people thrive, so do our communities and our state.

Our values

We are part of the South Australian public sector and share the values of:

							
SERVICE	PROFESSIONALISM	TRUST	RESPECT	COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT	HONESTY & INTEGRITY	COURAGE & TENACITY	SUSTAINABILITY
We proudly service the community and the South Australian Government.	We strive for excellence.	We have the confidence in the ability of others.	We value every individual.	We create solutions together.	We act truthfully, consistently, and fairly.	We never give up.	We work to get the best results for current and future generations of South Australians.

About this role

The Early Years Curriculum and Learning directorate leads the development, implementation and continuous improvement of early years curriculum and pedagogical guidance aligned to the South Australian Curriculum for Public Education, the Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Standard and the Department’s Strategy for Public Education. It works collaboratively to co-design curriculum supports, tools and initiatives, informed by stakeholder feedback, and monitors and reports on progress to drive system improvement.

The Early Years of Schooling Partner contributes to this work through statewide expertise in evidence-informed pedagogy, assessment and curriculum, with a focus on transition to primary school and the early years of schooling. The role enables a connected, strategic approach to curriculum implementation, strengthening practice and improving learning outcomes for children aged 4–8 years.

Position title	Early Years of Schooling Partner
Classification	STL3
Division	Curriculum & Learning
Directorate	Early Years, Curriculum and Learning
Location	Education Support Hub, 8 Milner Street, Hindmarsh 5007
Reports to	Director, Early Years Curriculum and Learning
Direct reports	Nil
Role description date	May 2026

What you will do (key outcomes)

1. Consult with stakeholders including, educators and leaders, in the design and development of Early Years curriculum supports, tools and initiatives, ensuring an integrated and strategic approach aligned to the department's Strategy for Public Education.
2. Identify and analyse emerging practices in Early Years curriculum design and work across the department to drive the sharing and implementation of effective practice.
3. Provide educational leadership and expert advice that informs the work of the broader Curriculum and Learning division, ensuring ongoing alignment with the Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Standard, the South Australian Curriculum for Public Education, and the Department's Strategy for Public Education.
4. Partner with preschool and school leadership and local education teams to analyse data and co-design improvement strategies that inform contextualised, evidence-informed curriculum initiatives and practice change to strengthen teaching quality and improve learning outcomes for children.
5. Coach preschools and schools and leadership teams to build professional learning communities to deepen professional learning, increase collaboration, de-privatise practice, and support critical reflection.
6. Undertake critical analysis of research to provide expert advice informing policy development and briefings and identify opportunities to strengthen implementation and innovation in early years curriculum and pedagogy.
7. Help to maintain a safe and healthy working environment by proactively reporting incidents, hazards and injuries.

The capabilities you will bring (key competencies)

- **Curriculum Leadership:** Demonstrated experience in providing strategic curriculum leadership that improves teaching and learning for early years learners, underpinned by extensive knowledge of the South Australian Curriculum for Public Education, the Early Years Learning Framework and the Department's Strategy for Public Education.

- **Research & Evaluation** Demonstrated capability to critically analyse and synthesise diverse research and differing perspectives, and translate evidence to inform professional learning, system initiatives, tools and resources that strengthen early years curriculum and practice.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Demonstrated capability to build and sustain effective cross-directorate partnerships across shared areas of responsibility in the early years of schooling, ensuring coherent, consistent and strategically aligned messaging to support system-wide implementation.
- **Professional Learning:** Extensive experience in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating effective professional learning programs focused on improving outcomes for early years learners.
- **Leadership & Autonomy:** Ability to lead and work in a highly autonomous and collaborative manner to achieve milestones within a multi-disciplinary education environment, and to exhibit flexibility, resilience, political acumen, and initiative to prioritise challenging workloads.
- **Communication & Engagement:** High-level oral and written communication skills, including successful experience in developing collaborative working relationships and networks across a range of stakeholders within preschools, schools, and partnerships and across external agencies, within changing, complex environments and competing demands.
- **WHS & Inclusion:** Demonstrated knowledge and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment, and the legislative requirements of Equal Opportunity and Work Health and Safety legislation.

Who you will work with (key relationships)

Direct working relationship

- Reports to the Director, Early Years Curriculum and Learning

Internal working relationships

- Officers within the directorate and across the Curriculum and Learning division
- Local Education teams, leaders and teachers.

External working relationships

- Key partners and stakeholders in the community, parents and professional associations, unions, interstate education systems and authorities, the tertiary and business sectors.

Eligibility


Applicants must be either currently registered or able to be registered to teach in South Australia. If not permanent with the Education Department, applicants must meet the department’s minimum employment requirements before taking up an appointment.

Minimum departmental employment requirements for teachers include recognised teaching qualifications and registration as a teacher in South Australia and, in addition, for all applicants who are not permanent with the department will include an active on-line application in the Employable Teacher Register (ETR), a cleared Education Department Employment Declaration, Australian residency or current work permit, Reporting Abuse and Neglect training (previously known as Mandatory Notification), and an approved First Aid Certificate.

At the conclusion of a term of appointment:

- permanent Education Department employees will be placed according to the terms of their substantive appointment and the policies in operation at the time
- employees originally from other public sector organisations with a right of return, will be managed according to the provisions of the Public Sector Act 2009 (SA) and any applicable public sector determination or policies
- applicants who are not permanent employees of the department do not hold placement rights with the Department for Education at the conclusion of the appointment.

Corporate responsibilities	Special conditions
Keep accurate and complete records Act appropriately in line with the Public Sector Code of Ethics at all times Support diversity and promote an inclusive workplace for everyone Maintain a commitment to Work Health and Safety legislative requirements	You may need a current driver's licence and be willing to drive You may be asked to work out of hours You may need to travel within or outside South Australia You need to achieve mutually agreed performance goals

Assessed by: Nadine Berno, P&C Consultant Corporate Leader Advisory Service		Approved by: Kate Ryan, Director, Early Years Curriculum & Learning	
Date: May 2026		Date: May 2026	

