

Position Description

Executive Leader, Early Years

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 Executive Leader, Early Years is responsible for supporting the Director, Early Years Curriculum and Learning in planning, prioritising and implementing statewide early childhood curriculum advice and support for preschools and schools.

Key functions include:

- Leading and managing a highly skilled team with early years expertise who will provide curriculum and pedagogical support to preschools and schools to support the implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework and the Department's Strategy for Public Education.
- Partnering with directorates and collaborating with other divisions that have early childhood responsibilities to achieve coherent curriculum and pedagogical advice to early years educators.
- Plan and implement internal and external stakeholder engagement, collating and analysing perspectives to drive continuous improvement of the directorate's work, including designing and contributing to program evaluations and reporting progress to executive leadership.

Position title	Executive Leader, Early Years
Classification	S121-6
Division	Curriculum and 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	Preschool Curriculum & Learning Partner (STL3) x 6 Leader Literacy Policy Early Years (STL3) Leader Numeracy Policy Early Years (STL3) Leader, Early Reading Policy and Practice (STL3) Early Years, Professional Learning Partner (STL3) x 2
Role description date	May 2026

What you will do (key outcomes)

1. Provide strategic, educational and operational leadership to support the Director, Early Years Curriculum and Learning, ensuring the delivery of high-quality early childhood pedagogical and curriculum advice that considers current and emerging innovations at the design and development stage of curriculum guidance, resources and projects.
2. Lead a high performing team to guide and influence the development and implementation of curriculum initiatives, resources and early years pedagogy, ensuring ongoing alignment with the Early Years Learning Framework and the department's Strategy for Public Education.
3. Work collaboratively within the directorate, across the division and with key stakeholders to identify and respond to emerging opportunities, informed by research, sector engagement and departmental priorities.
4. Lead and implement effective planning, management and continuous improvement methodologies to ensure high-quality curriculum guidance and support is developed and delivered, with robust monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of outcomes and progress through official communication channels.
5. Ensure timely and accurate advice of a complex and critical nature to the Chief Executive, Minister for Education and other senior executive – producing reports, briefings and correspondence that are informed by a strong understanding of effective evidence and delivery, including the reporting of program outcomes.
6. Coordinate engagement and effective working relationships with site leaders and local education teams to plan, schedule, develop, manage and implement timely connected initiatives and programs that support learners on a pathway toward continued success in education.
7. Help to maintain a safe and healthy working environment by proactively reporting incidents, hazards and injuries.

The capabilities you will bring (key competencies)

- **Executive Leadership:** Proven capability as an early years leader to build and lead dynamic teams, achieve high-quality outcomes, and respond strategically to changing priorities and competing demands.
- **System Reform:** Proven capacity to lead and deliver complex, system-wide curriculum and pedagogy reforms in early childhood education, using evidence-informed and practical strategies to achieve sustained improvement.
- **Policy Alignment:** Demonstrated high-level autonomy, political acumen and collaborative leadership across multidisciplinary contexts, effectively managing competing priorities, driving performance and ensuring alignment with strategic and policy directions.
- **Strategic Communication:** Evidence of highly developed oral and written communication skills, including leading meetings, setting agendas, and the preparation of high-quality correspondence, including briefings and reports to the Minister, senior executives and divisional leaders.
- **Influence & Partnerships:** Demonstrated high-order interpersonal skills to achieve productive working relationships and successful outcomes within the directorate and across the division and with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- **Practice Leadership:** Demonstrated ability to lead and influence system practice in curriculum planning, implementation, evaluation, assessment and reporting, underpinned by deep understanding of the Early Years Learning Framework, the Department's Strategy for Public Education, and contemporary research.
- **Governance & Compliance:** Demonstrated knowledge and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment, and the requirements of Equal Opportunity and Work Health and Safety legislation.

Who you will work with (key relationships)	Qualifications
• Director, Early Years Curriculum and Learning • Leads a team of seconded teachers with early years curriculum and pedagogy expertise • Curriculum and Learning division executive leaders and staff • Site leaders and teams • Local education teams	Essential: A tertiary qualification in early childhood education or equivalent experience Desirable: Nil
Eligibility	
Appointments made under section 121 of the <i>Education and Children's Services Act 2019</i> may provide health, social or other non-education services to schools, preschools and children's services centres. Positions will require the application of specialist education related skills and knowledge required for managing education programs, or administration of education standards requiring specific knowledge of site functions and operations.	

OFFICIAL

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 You must have a current Working with Children Check You must do Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care training You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence you have a current work permit

Assessed by: Tazeen Adnan P&C Consultant P&C Operations		Approved by: Kate Ryan, Director, Early Years Curriculum and Learning	
Date: 11 June, 2026		Date: 12 June, 2026	