



Day Care or Child Care

(Care and education for children age 0 – 6)

- Babies and children can attend day care from birth until school age.
- Day care centres normally operate from 7am to 6pm
- You can usually choose the days and hours your child attends
- Fees vary but you may be able to claim some money back from the Government, depending on your income and visa status.

Pre-School

(Care and education for children age 2 – 5)

- Children aged from two to five can go to kindergarten or pre-school
- Most of these are privately run and have shorter hours than day care centres

Kindergarten

(Education for children age 5 onwards)

- If your child turns 5 on or before July 31, they may start school at the beginning of the year. If your child turns 5 after July 31, they will need to wait until the following year before they can start.
- The first year of primary school is called kindergarten.

Primary School

(Education for children age 5 onwards)

- In NSW, all children must be enrolled in school *by the time they turn 6*.
- Children complete another six years of primary school

Secondary/High School

(Education for children age 11 - 17)

- In NSW, students enter secondary or high school in Year Seven aged 11 or 12, and can legally leave school at the age of 17.
- The NSW Government runs four different kinds of secondary schools:
 1. Local comprehensive high schools
 2. Central schools that service rural and isolated communities



Information on Children's Education System

3. Specialist high schools that focus on languages, performing arts, sports or technology
4. Selective high schools that accept students who achieve the highest results in the Selective High School Test

School Certificate and Higher School Certificate (HSC) (State-wide exams)

- In addition to individual school-run assessments, high school students in NSW sit two major state-wide exams – the School Certificate in Year 10 and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in Year 12.
- A student's HSC mark determines which courses they can apply for admission to at universities and colleges.

Intensive English Centres (IECs) and Intensive English High School (IEHS) (For newly arrived high school aged children)

- IECs and IEHS provide intensive English tuition to newly arrived high school aged children whose first language is not English.
- In addition, the IECs and the IEHS provide orientation, settlement and welfare programs to prepare students for learning in a NSW government high school and to participate in Australian society.

Public and Private School

- Students enjoy **free** tuition at **public schools including kindergarten**, which are run by the NSW Government. Parents are still asked to pay some fees to cover for textbooks, uniforms and the school library, and there may be extra costs throughout the year for excursions and special performances.
- **Private school** fees range from around AUD\$2,000 to over AUD\$30,000 a year. For information on fees and facilities you should contact individual schools.