

PRIORITY OF ACCESS Version 1.16

PRESCHOOL

In South Australia, the majority of children enrolled in a preschool will reside within the preschool local catchment area. Acceptance into a particular preschool is subject to the preschool's capacity, staffing enrolment cap and available resources. Priority consideration will be given to children residing within the preschool's local catchment area. A Child in Care is able to access and enrol at any government preschool in accordance with the Placement procedure.

Starting Preschool

From 2023 children who turn 4 years old:

- **Before 1 May** continue to start Preschool at the beginning of the year.
- **From 1 May to 31 October** start Preschool through the mid-year intake at the start of Term 3 of that year.
- **After 31 October** start Preschool at the start of the following year.

Children will undertake 4 terms (1 year) of Preschool, regardless of whether they start at the beginning of the year or through a mid-year intake.

Applications from local families

If more registrations of interest for a preschool are received from families living in the preschool local catchment area than available places, places will be offered based on whether one or more of the following criteria applies:

- the child has siblings currently enrolled in the school or service
- the child has previously been in care
- the child identifies as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander
- the family attends programs at the service
- the length of time the child has lived in the preschool local catchment area
- distance of the child's residence from the preschool (km's by road)

Applications from non-local families

Early childhood leaders in consultation with site leaders will identify available preschool options within the partnership to accommodate all children unplaced after the first round of enrolment offers.

If the preschool has places available after enrolling local children, children in care and families referred by the partnership, places may be offered to children living outside of the preschool local catchment area.

When more registrations of interest for preschool are received from families living outside of the preschool local catchment area than available places, places will be offered based on whether one or more of the following criteria applies:

- the child identifies as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander
- the child has siblings enrolled in a local school
- the distance of the child's residence from the preschool
- the family currently attends programs at the service
- transportation needs

CREATED: November 2007

REVIEWED: November 2008, March 2009, January 2010, January 2011, January 2011, January 2012, January 2013, January 2014, January 2015, January 2016, September 2016, January 2017, January 2018, January 2019, September 2020, September 2021, September 2022, September 2023

TO BE REVIEWED: September 2024

SOURCED: Children's Services Act 1985

Children's Services (Child Care) Regulations 1998

Dept. of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

DECS Preschool Enrolment Policy 2006

DECD Preschool Enrolment Policy 2012

DECD Same First Day Fact Sheet 2012

Preschool Priority of Access Guidelines – Northern Adelaide Region 2012

DECD Enrolment Policy 2014

Early Childhood Australia - Belonging: At the heart of relating to others 2015

Department for Education Starting preschool 2019

Department for Education Placement Procedure 2020

2023 Term 1, Round 2 Enrolment Guidance for Preschool Leaders 2022

DFE school and preschools enrolment policy – August 2023