

ENROLMENT POLICY

Enrolment and orientation are an exciting and emotional time for children and families. It is important to manage this time with sensitivity and support, building partnerships between families and the Preschool. Such partnerships enable the Preschool and families to work toward the common goal of promoting consistent quality outcomes for individual children and the Preschool.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 6: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS		
6.1	Supportive relationships with families	Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role.
6.1.1	Engagement with the service	Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in their service and contribute to service decisions.
6.1.2	Parent views are respected	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected, and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing.
6.1.3	Families are supported	Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.
6.2	Collaborative partnerships	Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.
6.2.3	Community and engagement	The service builds relationships and engages with its community.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS/EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
S175	Offence relating to requirement to keep enrolment and other documents
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
78	Food and beverages
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
96	Self-administration of medication
97	Emergency and evacuation procedures

99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
102	Authorisation for excursions
102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
157	Access for parents
160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider and family day care educator
161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
173	Prescribed information is to be displayed
177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider
181	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider
183	Storage of records and other documents

RELATED LEGISLATION

Disability Discrimination Act 1992	Family Law Act 1975
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RELATED POLICIES

<p>Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy Additional Needs Policy Governance Policy Children's Belongings Policy Control of Infectious Disease Policy Dealing with Complaints Policy Delivery of children to and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy Excursion/Inursion Policy Family Communication Policy Immunisation Policy</p>	<p>Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Interactions with Children, Families and Staff Policy Medical Conditions Policy Orientation of New Families Policy Payment of Fees Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Record Keeping and Retention Policy Safe Transportation Policy Sick Children Policy Sun Safe Policy Withdrawal of a Child Policy</p>
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PURPOSE

We aim to ensure children and families receive a positive and informative enrolment and orientation process that meets their individual needs. We strive to establish respectful and supportive relationships between families and the Preschool to promote positive outcomes for children whilst adhering to legislative requirements.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, management, and visitors of the Preschool.

ENROLMENT

An enrolment is required for each child attending the preschool and that the enrolment paperwork be completed and all administration fees paid in full before your child attends our preschool. We are a community based preschool which is funded under the NSW Department of Education and as a requirement to attend our preschool the enrolment paperwork along with all required information needs to be completed. Immunisation history, Privacy Collection, Medical Management Plan etc.

IMPLEMENTATION

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* requires approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place for enrolment and orientation (regulation 168) and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed (regulation 170).

Our Preschool accepts enrolments of children aged between 3 years – 5 years of age.

Enrolments will be accepted providing:

- a) the maximum daily attendance does not exceed the licensed capacity of the Preschool
- b) a vacancy is available for the booking required
- c) the adult to child ratio is maintained in each room

PRIORITY OF ACCESS

Our Preschool aims to assist families who are most in need and may prioritise filling vacancies with children who are:

- Children who are aged 4 years and will attend primary school the following year
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children
- at risk of serious abuse or neglect

ENROLMENT

To secure a child's position families are required to pay an Administration Fee and a membership fee. Other fees and levies will be discussed as per the current arrangements with the NSW State government funding arrangements.

When a family has indicated their interest in enrolling their child in our Preschool, we will organise an enrolment meeting to share information and build relationships.

- Families will be provided with a range of information about the Preschool which may include:
 - the preschool philosophy, inclusion, programming methods, food requirements incursions, excursions, fees,policies, procedures, SunSmart requirements, regulations and the licensing and assessment process. Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Framework, signing in and out procedure, room routines, educator qualifications, introduction of educator in the room the child will be starting in, and educator and parent communication strategies.
- Families will be invited to ask questions and seek any further information they may require
- Families will be provided with possible vacancies and start date
- Families will be invited to bring their child into the Preschool at a time that is mutually convenient to familiarise themselves with the environment and educators as part of the Orientation process
- Any matters that are of a sensitive nature, such as discussing a child's medical needs, Court Orders, parenting plans or parenting orders, will be discussed privately with management. Families will be required to bring any documents required in relation to court orders, medical needs or plans.
- Families will complete the enrolment form informing management of their child's interests, strengths and individual needs
- If a family or child uses English as a second language or speak another language at home, we request that families provide us with some key words in the language/s the child speaks so that educators can learn these words. Educators may use visuals to assist the child's understanding and be able to communicate with others.
- Information about fees will be discussed
- It is a legal requirement that prior to the child starting at the Preschool we have all required documents including
 - the completed enrolment form
 - medical management plans (if relevant) completed by the child's general practitioner
 - a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) showing the child is up to date with immunisations for their *age and*
 - details of any court orders, parenting orders or parenting plans

- Parents must notify the Preschool if their child is not up to date with their immunisations for their age via the enrolment form and attach the required documentation on their *AIR immunisation History Statement*.
- (NSW) To attend childcare, children must be fully immunised or on an approved vaccination catch-up program. If a child cannot be immunised due to a medical condition they may still be enrolled at the service with supporting documentation (Medical Exemption Form). If a child is on a 'catch-up' schedule for immunisations they may still be enrolled at the Service. The child's immunisation history statement will indicate that the child is on a catch-up schedule. [read more [here](#)]
- It is the family's responsibility to keep the Preschool informed of any changes to the information recorded on the application form and enrolment form.

FAMILIES WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Full name/s of parent/s (or the person legally responsible for the care of the child) residential address, place of employment and contact telephone number
2. The full name, residential address and contact telephone number of a person or persons, authorised by the parent who may be contacted in case of an emergency concerning the child if a parent is unable to be contacted (authorised nominee)
3. The full name, address and contact telephone number of any person authorised by the parent to collect the child from the Service (authorised nominee)
4. Full name of the child
5. Child's date of birth
6. Child's birth certificate or passport
7. Child's residency status
8. Child's address
9. Gender of the child
10. Cultural background of the child
11. Provision of care – if care will be a routine and/or casual etc.
12. Complying Written Agreement including fee information
13. Immunisation History Statement
14. Any court orders or parenting agreements regarding the child
15. The primary language spoken by the child; if the child has not learnt to speak, the child's family's language
16. Any special requirements of the family, including for example cultural or religious requirements
17. The individual needs of a child with a disability or with other additional needs

18. A statement/authorisation indicating the name and address and contact details of any person who is authorised to consent to the administration of medication to the child
19. Authorisation and signature by parent/authorised person for the approved provider, nominated supervisor or educator to seek:
 - o medical treatment for the child from a registered practitioner, hospital or ambulance service
 - o transportation of the child by an ambulance service
20. Child's Medicare number (if available)
21. Specific healthcare needs of the child, including allergies and intolerances
22. Any medical management plan for a specific severe healthcare need, medical condition, or allergy, such as an Anaphylaxis Emergency Management Plan or Risk Minimisation Plan.
23. Details of any dietary restrictions for the child
24. The name, address and telephone number of the child's doctor
25. Authorisation for regular occurring transportation and regular outings/excursions

ORIENTATION OF THE PRESCHOOL

During the orientation of the Preschool, families will:

- be provided with the enrolment form to be completed
- be provided with an outline of the Preschool policies which will include key policies such as: *Payment of fees, Sun Safe, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness, Control of infectious diseases, Sick Child and Administration of Medication*
- shown the signing in/out process for attendance
- advised of appropriate clothing for children to wear to the Service, including shoes, hats and sunscreen
- informed about policies regarding children bringing in toys from home
- introduced to their child's educators
- taken on a tour around the Preschool
- invited to visit the preschool at different times during the day
- provided with suggestions for developing and maintaining a routine for saying goodbye to their child
- asked to share information on any medical management plan or specific healthcare needs of their child (if applicable)
- informed of the educational learning activities program which is able to be viewed each afternoon at collection time and also for parents to view on story park
- introduced to the room routine and Preschool program, including portfolios and the observation cycle
- informed about Preschool communication strategies including meetings, interviews, newsletters, emails, etc.

- given the opportunity to set goals for their child
- confirm preferred method of communication.

ENROLMENT PACK

Once the enrolment administration fee has been paid, families will be provided with an enrolment pack which consists of:

- Family Handbook, which outlines the Preschool's operation and philosophy
- current fee structure and payment details
- Information about the online App – Story Park
- Information on the National Quality Framework, National Quality Standards and the Early Years Learning Framework
- ECA Code of Ethics brochure
- Lunchbox and Snack ideas
- Munch and Move Fact Sheets

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE:

- the enrolment form is completed accurately and, in its entirety
- document evidence such as birth certificate or passport is sighted to verify that the child's enrolment details are true and correct
- authorisations are signed by both parents/guardians
- our Preschool complies with the *Disability Discrimination Act* and our enrolment policy and practices do not discriminate against children or others with disability
- barriers to access and participation for children with disability are identified and reasonable adjustments to the program and environment is made to allow access and participation in the Preschool [See: *Additional Needs Policy*]
- a child with medical needs does not begin at the preschool unless a medical management plan is received and medication is brought to the preschool each day
- the child's Medical Management Plan is recorded, and this information is shared/distributed to educators
- Action Plans are completed in full (if relevant)
- Administration of Medication forms are completed (if relevant)
- the Medical Conditions Policy is provided to families for children with a specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition before the child begins education and care at the Preschool

- Risk Minimisation Plans and Communication Plans are requested/completed with parents/guardians for children with medical needs before the child begins education and care at the Preschool
- the appropriate Teacher is informed of the new child including any medical conditions, interests, developmental needs, and strengths.
- immunisation history statement and birth certificate have been sighted and photocopied
- the child is added to the Observation cycle
- a file for the Child's information is created

FAMILIES WILL:

- complete all documentation required by the Preschool for enrolment
- provide required authorisations as indicated on enrolment form
- notify the preschool of any specific health care needs of the child, including medical conditions and allergies and provide a medical management plan for child if applicable
- ensure all information about the child and family is kept up to date.

ENROLMENT RECORD KEEPING

Our *Record Keeping and Retention Policy* outlines the information and authorisations that we will include in all child enrolment records.

ON THE CHILD'S FIRST DAY

Consideration will be made to each family regarding the initial settling in period and strategies may be offered to assist both parents and the child. Parents will be reassured that they are able to stay with their child for as long as they choose in the early days; speak to their child's educator at any time; contact the Preschool during the day to 'check' in on their child and request help with separation if this is a problem for their child.

On the first day, the child and their family will be welcomed by the their child's Teacher, Preschool Director and shown where or how to sign their child in/out of the Preschool.

- They will be greeted by an educator and walked to their room
- The educator will discuss what is happening in the room, and show where the child's locker is located
- Information about collecting their child at the end of the day will be discussed
- Educators will ensure information about the child's first day is shared with parents at the end of the day

- Management will ensure the orientation checklist has been completed and all required documents and information has been received from families.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Enrolment Policy* will be updated and reviewed annually in consultation with families, staff, educators and management.

- RELATED RESOURCES

Application to attend Preschool form Enrolment form Notification of changes to enrolment	Termination of Enrolment Policy
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SOURCES

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. *Enrolment and Orientation*.

ACECQA. (2022). The Disability Discrimination Act: [What do Children's Education and Care Services Need to Know?](#)

Australian Government Services Australia

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register/how-get-immunisation-history-statement>

NSW Department of Education

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance. (2021). No Jab No Play, No Jab No Pay

<https://www.ncirs.org.au/public/no-jab-no-play-no-jab-no-pay>

NSW Government Health. (2019). Questions and answers about vaccination requirements for child care:

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Childcare Centre Desktop - www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Maxine Smith	Preschool Director	March 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	MARCH 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	SEPTEMBER 2023
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional statement added to role of AP and Management re: children with disability and compliance with Disability Discrimination Act 1992 • Legal requirement for families to provide birth certificate/passport deleted • Added that evidence such as birth certificate/passport will be sighted to verify child's enrolment details • related resources added 		