

The Kinder Garden



Enrolment and Orientation Policy

Aim

The Kinder Garden aims to ensure that each child's enrolment is completed as per our legal requirements. Additionally, we aim to ensure that each child and their family receives an enrolment and orientation process that meets their needs, allowing the family and child to feel safe and secure in the level of care that we provide, and their new environment.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standards 2011
NSW Department of Education
Child Care Service Handbook 2013-2014

Who is affected by this policy?

Educators
Staff
Children
Families
Community
Visitors
Management

Implementation

Our service accepts enrolments of children aged between 0-6 years.

Enrolments will be accepted providing:

- The maximum daily attendance does not exceed the licensed capacity of the Service.
- A vacancy is available.
- Child ratios for groups are maintained.
- Priority of access guidelines are met, as set by Department of Social Services.

When a family has indicated their interest in enrolling their child into our Education and Care Service the following will occur:

- A tour of our Education and Care Service will be organised and conducted. During this tour, the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educator conducting the tour will give the family information about the Service including, but not limited to, programming ethos, meals, incursions, excursions, inclusion, fees, policies, our status as a Sun Smart Service and the responsibility our Service has to ensure Sun Safe practices, Regulations for our state and the Assessment and Rating process under the National Quality Standards, signing in and out procedure, the National Quality Framework, room routines, Educator and other staff qualifications, introduction of Educators/Staff in the room the child will be starting in and Educator/staff and parent communication. Families are also invited to ask any questions or raise any concerns they may have.
- Families are given the Service's Parent/Guardian Handbook to read, and are invited to ask questions and provide feedback or suggestions.
- Discussions are held between office staff and families regarding availability of days, a start date and tailoring an orientation process to suit the needs of the family and child.
- Families will be informed of the required enrolment documentation for the child (enrolment form, birth certificate, Australian Childhood Immunisation Register documentation and Medicare number, Parent/Guardian and child/ren/s Customer Reference Number etc).
- Families are informed of the Priority of Access Policy, and have their position assessed as to how they place within this system. Any matters that are of a sensitive nature, such as discussing a child's medical needs or Court Orders, will be discussed privately with the Approved Provider/ Nominated Supervisor at this time. We request families begin

to fill out enrolment forms, and provide us with background information so we can accommodate their needs in the Education and Care Service from the first day of their enrolment.

- Should a child speak English as a second language, we request that families provide us with some key words in the language the child speaks at this time so Educators/Staff can assist in meeting the child's needs.
- Families also need to contact the Department to Human Services to have their eligibility for Child Care Benefit assessed. If these details are available, we will complete the child's formal enrolment. Should a family still need to access this information, we will complete an informal enrolment until these details are finalised.
- Families will be invited to bring their child into the Education and Care Service at a time that suits them so the child and family can familiarise themselves with the environment.
- Before the child begins their first day with us, the Education and Care Service must have all required documentation for the child, including all requirements of the NSW *Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for Early Childhood Education and Care Services*. The child will not be accepted into the Service without this being completed.

On the child's first day:

- The child and their family are welcomed into the relevant room for the first day.
- We will ensure all details are finalised, and complete the Orientation Checklist.

Other information about our Education and Care Service's enrolment includes:

- We will try and accommodate families so that children from the same family can attend our Service. This will be carried out in line with our obligations under the Priority of Access Policy.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Guide to National Quality Standards 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Child Care Service Handbook 2013-2014
Child and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority
Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for Early Childhood Education and Care Services

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: February 2017

Date for next review: February 2018