



Early Intervention Policy

Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association aims to provide a quality service that is both accessible and appropriate to the needs of all preschool-age children in the local community. Support services, specialist equipment and resources will be provided as required and when possible due to funding.

Additional needs may include a physical disability, an intellectual disability, emotional needs, challenging behaviours or a language disorder.

Working in consultation with the Queanbeyan Children's Special Needs Group (QCSNG) and Community Health specialists, children with additional needs will be encouraged to attend preschool sessions. Support will be offered to the children and their families. Support may take the form of:

- Additional educators to facilitate the specific needs of each child.
- Information regarding resources and therapy services within the local community.
- Assistance in preparing each child for the next educational setting.
- Advice in planning activities for a home program.

The Queanbeyan Children's Special Needs Group and Southern Area Health, provides an Early Intervention consultant to assist the preschool educators in providing inclusive and appropriate programs specific to children with additional needs. Consultants also facilitate liaison between families, preschool educators, relevant professionals and community services. E.g. Department of Education and Communities, Family and Community Services (FACS) (NSW Government), NSW Family Support Service and the local schools.

The Association employs additional educators to facilitate the inclusion of children with additional needs within each of the preschools and classrooms. The hours of employment of each support educator is reviewed each year depending on the needs of the children enrolled.

To ensure that children with additional needs will have access to all areas of the classroom and playground, the physical environment will be adapted as required and specific equipment and materials will be sourced and purchased as necessary.

Priority of Placement

Places for children with additional needs are limited by the number of spaces available. In order to maintain a quality service for all the children enrolled, it is necessary to limit the number of children with support needs to two per classroom group. Children with support needs will be offered a place according to our *Enrolment and Priority of Access Policy* and age (with an older child being given priority over a younger child). Availability of reports for funding and the potential of the transition to main stream school will also be considered.



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For children who do not receive a position, every effort will be made to offer parents alternate options while they are waiting for a place to become available at preschool.

Enrolment Procedures

Before a child with additional needs is enrolled at a preschool it will be necessary for discussion to take place between the parents, the preschool staff and all relevant QCSNG consultants. We recommend, dependent on individual circumstances, that children with additional needs start preschool two weeks later than the rest of the class, to allow for a smoother transition to preschool as they will generally be entering a more settled and calm environment. The need for this will be determined at a transition meeting involving preschool educators, parents and therapists.

Once the specific needs of the child have been determined, a place may be offered in supported sessions. A supported session is one where an additional educator is available to provide assistance within the classroom program.

Normal enrolment procedures will apply before a child can commence in a preschool session. An enrolment form will need to be completed, and an advance fee paid.

- For further information regarding priority of placement and enrolment procedures please refer to the “*Enrolment and Priority of Access Policy*”.

Funding For Support Staff and Equipment

The Director/teacher, in consultation with the parents, may choose to seek additional DoE funding to help cover the costs of support staff and/or specialised equipment for children with additional needs.

The main source of funding is:

NSW Department of Education - Start Strong Inclusion Support Program. The Preschool Start Strong Inclusion Support Funding Program supports the inclusion of children with disability in NSW community preschools.

Parents will be requested to provide copies of assessment reports and supporting documentation, and to sign application forms, before submission by the teacher. The educators will respect the confidentiality of families at all times.

Safety

The safety of all children in the centre is paramount. If there are any concerns about safety, then the parents, the teacher, the QCSNG or specialist consultant, and an association member may need to discuss alternative options in regards to the other children, staff or the child themselves.

Further Reading:

- 1) *Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association, Enrolment and Priority of Access Policy*



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2) *Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association, Anti-Bias Policy*