

RUTHERGLEN KINDERGARTEN PRIORITY OF ACCESS POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 6

Author: Rutherglen Kindergarten
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PRIORITY OF ACCESS CRITERIA

If more eligible children are seeking a place at a Kindergarten service than there are places available, children are required to be prioritised based on the following:

<i>High Priority Children</i>	<i>Process that could be used to verify need(s)</i>
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care.	<p>The child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligible for Early Start Kinder or Access to Early Learning, and/or • family, carer or legal guardian identifies the child as known to Child Protection or in out-of-home care, and/or • referred by one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Child Protection ❖ Child and family services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST/integrated family services/Services Connect case worker) ❖ Maternal and Child Health nurse ❖ out-of-home care provider.
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family identifies the child as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. <p>As part of the enrolment process, service providers must respectfully ask families ‘is your child Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?’</p>
Asylum seeker and refugee children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child or family holds a visa or supporting documentation and information, including an ImmiCard, identifying the child and/or parents, carers or legal guardians as a refugee or asylum seeker and/or • Referred as a refugee or asylum seeker by a Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) outreach worker.
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child or parent holds a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran’s Affairs Card, or • The child is identified on their birth certificate as one of a set of triplets, quadruplets or more.

<p>Children with additional needs, defined as children who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the Kindergarten program. • Require a combination of services which are individually planned. • Have an identified specific disability or developmental delay. 	<p>The child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • holds a Child Disability Health Care Card, and/or • has previously been approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS) program, and/or • has been referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ the National Disability Insurance Scheme ❖ Early Childhood Intervention Services ❖ Preschool Field Officer ❖ Maternal and Child Health nurse, or ❖ is assessed as having delays in 2 or more areas and is declared eligible for a second year of funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.
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Please note: DE's PoA guidelines are to ensure that kindergarten programs are available to those children who stand to benefit the most from attending early education. In mixed age groups, PoA guideline will equally prioritise three and four-year-old children that are considered high priority. Where programs for three- and four-year old children are provided separately, the PoA criteria will be applied separately for each age cohort.

Two Kindergarten places will be held until a date later in the year of enrolment for high priority children. If the places have not been filled by the date chosen then the next two children on the application list will be offered places.

Rutherglen Kindergarten will further prioritise access as listed below:

- Current 3 year olds who will attend 4 year old Kinder the following year providing the Expression of Interest form is fully complete and given to the kinder prior to/or on the advertised completion date.
- Sibling of a current enrolled child
- Children who turn four years of age by 30th April in the year they will attend kindergarten; **or**
- Children who turn three years of age by 30th April in the year they will attend kindergarten
- Home address falls within the same suburb as the Kinder or families located in small close towns that have no Kinder e.g. Springhurst
- Indigo Shire
- Date of application

All information relating to PoA criteria will be respectfully collected, recorded in the child's confidential record and entered into the Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), where applicable.

Process for Expression of Interest for the following year

- Rutherglen Kindergarten will advertise when Expression of Interest packs are available mid-year.
- Families will contact Rutherglen Kindergarten to obtain Expression of Interest forms. This is not a guarantee of a place.