



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

## Strathalbyn Kindergarten and Outreach

### Priority of Access Policy

#### Starting Kindergarten

Children start kindergarten in the first week of term one. Children have four terms of Kindergarten and then four terms of Reception when they start school.

If your child turns four:

- before May 1 they will start kindergarten on the first day of term one in that year
- on or after May 1, they will start kindergarten on the first day of term one the following year.

The kindergarten year is an entitlement for all four year old children in SA. Children are entitled to five sessions [15 hours] a week for four terms. Sessions can be structured in a number of ways according to site needs and children will always receive 30 hours per fortnight. Children attending more than one government funded kindergarten are only entitled to 15 hours per week across sites.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children under the Guardianship of the Minister for Education and Child Development are able to commence kindergarten after their third birthday, and are eligible for two years of kindergarten.

Children with additional needs\* may be able to start preschool two terms before they would normally start. This is decided on a case by case basis and should be discussed with the Preschool Director after the child's third birthday.

*\*(Additional needs include disability, developmental delay, gifted development or children who are at risk because of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or family circumstance)*

**Access of Priority** takes into consideration the State / Commonwealth's Guidelines, namely:-

- A child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

Reviewed September 2012:

Reviewed May 2017

Review due: May 2018

- Children in families with a non-English speaking background
- Children in socially isolated families
- Children of single parents
- Children under the Guardianship of the Minister
- Children with specific and identified special needs
- Transfer of eligible kindergarten child(ren) into the Strathalbyn and surrounding areas

Priority must always be given to children whose primary residence is within the catchment area of the preschool. Catchment areas are currently being determined by DECD.

***Additional specific priority of access for BURKETT DRIVE - site/staff capacity = maximum of 27 children***

***Children will have priority to attend Burkett Drive when they:***

- Use the adjoining Strathalbyn Children's Centre -Child Care Centre on a regular basis due to parents' working / looking for work

***Additional specific priority of access for CORONATION ROAD - site/staff capacity=maximum of 45 children***

***Children will have priority to attend Coronation Road when they:***

- Use the school bus or community bus facilities

When Strathalbyn Kindergarten and Outreach is unable to accommodate an eligible preschool child due to capacity being reached the director will refer the family to other local kindergartens that have available places.

**Resources:**

DECD Guideline 15/03629 Developing and Implementing a Priority of Access Policy for Preschools

DECD Preschool Enrolment Policy 2017