

Delayed Entry and Exit Policy

National Regulations

Regs	73	Educational Program
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Aim

To ensure our Kindergarten Program is promoted and offered in accordance with State Government rules and requirements, and parents can access resources and support to meet their child's needs within our approved Kindergarten Program

Related Policies

Education, Curriculum and Learning Policy

Who is affected by this policy?

Staff

Families

Children

Implementation

Under Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS) our service offers an Approved Kindergarten Program which involves:

- (a) A curriculum based on Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines (QKLG)
- (b) A program of 600 hours per year, typically 15 hours per week and 40 weeks per year
- (c) Provision to children in the year prior to Prep (i.e. children who are at least four years of age by 30 June in the year they participate)
- (d) Delivery by a qualified early childhood teacher

While participation in the Kindergarten Program is not compulsory, it is strongly encouraged as it provides children with a smooth transition and strong foundation for Prep and full-time schooling. Children usually commence Prep after one year in the Kindergarten Program.

Children must be at least five years of age on or before 30 June in the year they attend prep at school. Parents of children who turn five in the following month (between 1 and 31 July) may apply to enrol in Prep early. The school principal will decide whether the child is ready for Prep after considering his or her development and abilities.

The Government recognises that some children may benefit from starting Kindergarten later (delayed entry) or by completing a second year of kindergarten (delayed exit). This decision must be made by the child's parents. Children refused early entry to Prep can complete a second year of kindergarten without applying for a delayed exit. Note that if a child delays entry to Kindergarten they must still complete the first Preparatory year at school.

We encourage parents to arrange a meeting with our Early Childhood Teacher, school Principal and other professionals if relevant to discuss any concerns about their child's readiness to start school. We are happy to respond to all requests for information about the delayed entry to or exit from kindergarten process to ensure they can make an informed decision.

During the meeting with the Early Childhood Teacher:

Parents should discuss:

- their child's development and abilities
- how the Kindergarten Program can support the child's particular needs
- why they think their child is not ready to start a Kindergarten Program or Prep
- the assistance available to support their child
- what's involved in completing Prep
- school enrolment practices and the delayed entry and exit process

The early childhood teacher will:

- discuss the parents' understanding of their child's abilities and needs
- discuss whether parents should delay their child's entry to or exit from a kindergarten program
- where parents decide to delay exit, complete written evidence to support the delay, and provide a copy to parents

There must be written evidence which supports a decision to delay the exit of a child from an approved kindergarten program. This evidence can take any form. There is no longer any requirement to use the 'Delayed Entry to and Exit from a Kindergarten Program' form. We will keep a record of the supporting evidence until the child starts school.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations
Department of Education and Training det.qld.gov.au

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Last reviewed: 14/01/2020

Date for next review: 13/01/2021