

Enrolment & Orientation Policy

Policy Reviewed: November 2023
Next Review date: November 2024

BERALA JACK & JILL
PRE-SCHOOL



Policy statement:

Our service will implement a process to ensure enrolment and orientation processes are planned and implemented to meet the needs of the child and family as well as ensuring all legislative requirements, including the Australian Government Priority of Access Guidelines are adhered to.

We will ensure:

- Children are provided with support and comfort to settle into the service and establish new friendships and relationships;
- A thoughtful process is planned in consultation with families, to assist in separating from their child;
- Educators are provided with a clearly explained enrolment process; time to get to know families before children start; strategies to support families in introducing children to our service, time to develop close professional relationships with families; support from referral agencies; and information about custodial issues;
- Home language, cultural background and family priorities are considered at all times during the process.

Background:

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* require early childhood services to have policies and procedures in place in relation to enrolment and orientation procedures.

Related National Quality Standards

Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children - Standard 5.1, 5.2,

Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities - Standard 6.1

Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership – Standard 7.1

Explanation

Berala Jack & Jill Pre-school is licensed for 40 children per day aged between three and a half years and under six years. Priority of enrolment will be to those children turning 4 years by 31st July (equity children) as their names appear in order on the waiting list. However, children with families on low incomes, Aboriginal families, children with English language needs, children with a disability and additional needs, and those children who are at risk of significant harm as identified through the Department or other supporting Agencies are on the priority list. After meeting the above criteria if we have any positions available they will be offered to children who have turned 3 ½ years of age. Our services aims is to provide quality Pre-school education and care for the overall development of all children and as a preparation for a smooth transition to Kindergarten in the schools.

Implementation:

- Names will be taken for our waiting list from the birth of a child.
- There is a \$20 non-refundable fee to be paid before a name is placed on the waiting list. If twins or siblings are placed on the waiting list at the same time, there will only be one \$20 fee charged. It is explained to families that this is not a guarantee of a position at our service.
- As children are placed on the waiting list parents are informed of which year their child will attend and that the enrolment process begins in the August of the preceding year.
- In August of the preceding year, parents of eligible children are offered a placement on priority group of enrolment and first registered.
- When a position has been accepted for the following year, enrolment forms must be completed by each enrolling family. Families will be sent a link to the enrolment form via Storypark Manage. Where enrolling families are not fluent in English the enrolment meeting will, wherever possible be conducted in the families primary language. At enrolment, parents are encouraged to provide any further information about their child that will support continuity of care between home and the service. The enrolment record will include the following information for each child:
 - Full name, date of birth and address of the child.
 - Name, address and contact details of each parent of the child; any emergency contacts; any person nominated by the parent to collect the child from the service; any person authorised to consent to medical treatment or to authorise administration of medication to the child; any person authorised to give approval for an educator to take the child out of the service.
 - Details of court orders, parenting orders or plans.
 - Details of court orders relating to the child's residence or contact with a parent or other person.
 - Gender of the child.
 - Language used in the child's home.
 - Cultural background of the child and child's parents.
 - Any special considerations for the child (e.g. cultural, religious or dietary requirements or additional need).
 - Authorisations for our service to seek medical treatment for the child from a registered medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service, and transportation of the child by an ambulance service
 - Authorisation for the service to take the child on regular outings.
 - Name, address and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner or medical service.
 - Child's Medicare number (if available).
 - Details of any specific healthcare needs of the child including any medical condition.
 - Details of any allergies or anaphylaxis diagnosis.
 - Any medical management plan, anaphylaxis/asthma/diabetic management or risk minimisation plan.
 - Details of dietary restrictions for the child.
 - Immunisation status of the child.
 - All information will be checked before enrolment is complete including the child's immunisation status.
- All statutory documents will be obtained and scanned in Storypark Manage to confirm the position.
- At the commencement of the enrolment process, families will be charged a \$150 administrative fee that must be paid at the time of enrolment.
- Families will be informed of the daily fee rate once the Department of Education communicates the perspective years fee relief funding. Families who opt into fee relief at our service will pay a reduced daily rate or nil dollars, depending on days of enrolment and if their child meets the equity

requirements under Start Strong Funding Guidelines. Families who do not opt into fee relief will be charged full fees.

- On enrolment parents/carers are to complete the enrolment form, Department of Education consent form, fee relief declaration form, parent input form and provide necessary documentation, including Birth Certificate or Passport, Immunisation History Statement, Low Income Health Care Card (if applicable) or other information pertaining to the child e.g. health, medical or welfare.
- Prior to orientation, we will issue all information about our Pre-school including: what to bring, costs and payment methods (if applicable), internet banking form, New Parent Information Booklet, business card, helpful settling tips handout, parent input form, guide for healthy lunches, Starting Preschool social story, relevant policies and dates and times for Orientation visits and New Parent Information Night. Families will be encouraged to share all relevant information about their child. This will assist us in providing the best care and support we can to provide a smooth settling in period and ongoing experience for all. Other important information to note and share with staff include: cultural practices and religious beliefs and practices to be adhered to.
- Medical conditions, medications and Risk Minimisation Plans of such conditions will be documented and followed according to plans signed by the child's doctor and in conjunction with the families, meeting all Regulatory requirements. Details of court orders in relation to the child's contact with a parent or other person will be collected and then information shared with all staff.
- An immunisation register will be maintained and updated.
- We endeavor to meet the needs of our culturally diverse service by translating literature into Chinese.
- If the parent/carer identifies any additional needs on enrolment, we will ask to sight and copy any assessments/reports and ask if there are any organisations/professionals supporting them. This will enable us to work with those already supporting the child/family and to apply for any High Learning Support Needs funding that may be available to us to help us meet the needs of the child when attending our Service. If they haven't already done so and we believe that a child would benefit from seeing a Specialist or engaging with community providers, we will sensitively and respectfully offer to assist the family with contact details for child/family support. Some examples include Northcott Early Childhood Intervention and Auburn Child Development Clinic through.
- All children enrolled are required to be toilet trained as we are not equipped with a suitable change table and laundry and hygiene facilities.
- A New Parent Information Night will be held at our service in term 4. Parents will be given an understanding of the Pre-school routine, program, information about how we support learning across all developmental domains using play and parent involvement including the Management Committee.
- Following the New Parents Information Night there will be an Orientation process where the child and child's parents are invited to attend the service for a duration of 2 hours. A parent/carer must accompany each child on Orientation Days. Children with additional needs and disabilities will be invited to attend up to two orientation visits.
- There will be a transition to preschool week during the first week of week one term one to assist in smooth transitions. During this week, children will attend between the hours of 9am and 1pm.
- All information received by the Pre-school is strictly confidential and is kept in safe custody at the Pre-school.
- Educators are informed of the needs of each child attending, including any additional needs, medical, health and/or learning difficulties.
- Educators will provide a welcoming environment and assist children and families with separation, familiarising with the environment and routine and settling in. They will also be available to answer questions and provide comfort and reassurance as needed.

- All families will be issued with our privacy collection statement, outlining the type of personal information collected by our service and how information is acquired, used and shared.

Source:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 167, 170, 176

Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulations 102, 102D, 160, 161, 162, 168(2)(k), 177, 183

Public Health Act 2010 No 127: Part 5 Division 4, Section 87

Health records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW)

Community Early Learning Australia

Australian Government - Department of Education www.education.gov.au/early-childhood

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children - Standard 5.1, 5.2, Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities - Standard 6.1 Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership – Standard 7.1

Please refer to these policies:

Fees

Medical Conditions

Inclusion

Immunisation

Privacy and Confidentiality