



Occasional care priority of access policy

The Occasional Care program operates from preschools and children's centres for early childhood development and parenting (children's centres) in rural and metropolitan areas throughout South Australia. The focus of the program is to provide care for children in communities where there are limited childcare options.

The aim of the program is to:

- provide families with access to occasional childcare, targeting children not accessing other early childhood education and care programs.
- enable parents to participate in a range of activities including non-work and casual work commitments
- promote young children's development and learning by increasing access to a high quality early childhood education and care program.

The program supports children who are not accessing alternative early childhood education and care programs including preschool, long day care or family day care. As this program is funded by the Department for Education there are limited positions across Kindergartens across South Australia. To make sure that all families can access this affordable service, we ask that you only attend one Occasional Care site at a time.

Priority 1

This priority applies to children:

- in care
- at risk of serious abuse and neglect
- in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- in families that include a person with a disability or health condition that impacts their parenting
- with a disability or additional needs
- in socially isolated families.

Priority 2

This priority applies to low-income families receiving an Australian Government Pensioner Concession or Health Care Card.

When the site has limited spaces, we will look to the following criteria to determine placements – these include: (not in any order):

- If they have already had a sibling attend occasional care
- If they have been attending our programs on site like the playgroups and parenting groups



- Proximity to the site in Km's- children who are located closer to the children's centre will be offered before children who live near other occasional care sites and/or a further distance from the site.

At the Directors discretion

- Some children may be offered additional sessions of occasional care particularly if they fit with priority 1. This is based on if there is space to do so. This maybe a one-off session, a term booking or ongoing.
- If children are accessing childcare/family day care services (1-2 days maximum) but fit with the priority 1 we may still be able to provide occasional care based on vacancies. If there are vacancies that cannot be filled on the waiting list, families who are accessing childcare type services (1-2 days maximum) may be offered occasional care. This will be based on a term-by-term arrangement.

We ask that families please let us know if they commence any early childhood education and care programs so that we can update our information as this may impact on the offering of future placements.

Attendance at Occasional care

If you accept an occasional care position and then do not attend this session ongoing (e.g., only attend 1 out of 10) we may not be able to offer a further term of occasional care. We typically have a lengthy wait list with not many daily spots meaning that someone maybe missing out on this service.

We understand that circumstances may change so we ask families to please let us know if you are not able to continue your term's booking.

At our occasional care you will get a set day each week which will continue for the whole term. This will be assessed near the end of the term on what can be offered for the following term.

The Department for Education has an Occasional Care procedure that contains further information about processes and procedures for Occasional care.

Approved by Educators and the Governing Council

To be reviewed: June 2028

Governing Council Chairperson: Alison Riddell

Kindergarten Director: Kim Cook

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