

# Prekindergarten / Kindergarten Entrance

## Background

High quality prekindergarten and kindergarten programs that address the whole child and attend to children's overall development enhance learning outcomes for young children. Prekindergarten programs need to have 12 hours of instructional time per week. Admittance to prekindergarten and kindergarten programs is determined as detailed below.

## Procedures

### 1. Prekindergarten Entrance Criteria

The prekindergarten programs in NLSD are for children aged 3 and 4. Prekindergarten programs are limited to a maximum of sixteen student placements. In the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of available placements, the following criteria must be considered:

- Low economic status
- Parents have less than a high school education
- A language other than English is spoken in the home
- Parent is young and unmarried
- Parent(s) would benefit from a parent education component
- Child displays social, behavioural, emotional, cognitive or communication challenges or delays
- Family is committed to participation in the prekindergarten program
- Child has had a recent traumatic experience

As the prekindergarten program is open to children that are considered to be at risk, NLSD feels that a student cannot be denied access to the program if he/she has not been toilet trained prior to registering for the program. Students that wear "pull-ups" or diapers are permitted to register; however, if there are concerns such as medical conditions or persistent accidents, then a plan should be put in place that is developed between the educational assistant, classroom teacher, administration and the parent or guardian. The following questions can be used to guide discussion with families about toilet learning:

- Where is your child in the toileting process?
- If in pull ups, are they independent enough to handle this on their own? Can you explain why they are in pull ups?
- Can you explain your child's bathroom schedule in regards to when accidents most commonly occur?
- Are you willing to send an extra change of clothes?

The prekindergarten staff will ensure that the educational assistant is dealing with the student who is toilet learning while the classroom teacher remains with the other students. No students should be left unattended because of toileting issues.

If further support is needed in this area, please contact the Early Childhood Consultant at NLSD with any questions or concerns.

## 2. Kindergarten Entrance Age

Only those children who are five (5) years of age during the enrollment year and extending to January 15th of the following year will be admitted.

## 3. Tracking of Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Students

Prekindergarten and kindergarten students will be entered in PowerSchool and their attendance will be tracked daily to facilitate upkeep of the provincial SDS and to provide accurate registration and attendance data.

Reference: Sections 2, 85, 87, 108, 109, 110, 141, 142, 145, 169, 173, 175, 186 Education Act