



Four year old pre-school is a government funded program.

Families on a health care card or pension card are eligible for a government subsidy.

Three year old pre-school is not a government-funded program. (user pays service)

Requests for positions at the pre-school will be compiled into lists by the WPSA Application Office, recording name and other basic data as per the following selection criteria. The intention is to work through the various stages of the criteria. Positions are allocated in the year before your child is due to attend pre-school.

ELIGIBILITY

All children must meet 'No Jab, No Play' Legislation requirements.

4yo - a child must have turned four years of age by April 30 in the year they are to attend to coincide with school entry.

3yo - a. A child must have turned three years of age by April 30 in the year they are to attend to coincide with school entry.

b. A child must be three years of age before they can commence the program as per Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012.

A. PRIORITY OF ACCESS – Funded 4yo only

1. **VERIFIED PRIORITY CHILDREN – Funded 4yo program*** as per Department of Education and Training (DET) Kindergarten Guide guidelines. See table over page.

2. REPEATING CHILDREN – Funded 4yo only

Children who have attended the funded 4 year old group at the same preschool, and are eligible for a second year of funded 4 year old preschool as recommended by the Early Childhood Teacher.

Repeating 4yo without funding approval is not available.

B. LOCAL FACTORS – Preference will be given to Whitehorse residents

1. LINK TO THE PRESCHOOL

1a. CONTINUITY 4yo only - Applicant attended for a minimum of 2 terms in the 3 year old program at the same preschool the previous year.

1b. SIBLINGS - Brothers or sisters of previous or current attendees at the preschool;

OR, where the preschool is part of a Primary School current attendees at the school and/or preschool.

2. **PROXIMITY** – For the purpose of this clause the primary residential address will be used, appropriate proof of address must be supplied. For the purpose of this clause www.freemaptools.com will be used, and as the crow flies.

3. **OTHER REPEATING 4YO ONLY** - Children who have attended a funded 4 year old pre-school program and are eligible for a second year of funded 4 year old preschool as recommended by an Early Childhood Teacher, and request the second funded year of 4 year old preschool to be at another preschool.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES - may be considered in conjunction with above criteria

Any special circumstances, which the Committee and Early Childhood Teacher agree is appropriate to consider. For example:

Additional Needs – an applicant who has additional needs or a family member of the applicant who has additional needs not considered under Priority of Access.

If there are more applicants than positions available, and applicants are on equal standing after the above criteria has been applied offers will be determined by ballot.

PRIORITY OF ACCESS

Verified Priority Children DET Guidelines Funded 4yo program only

High priority children	Process that could be used to verify need(s)
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care	The child is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending a three year old kindergarten program through Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning, or • referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection - Child and family services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST) - Maternal and Child Health nurse, or Out-of-Home Care provider
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children	Family identifies the child as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Asylum seeker and refugee children	Appropriate visa that identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	Children or parents who hold a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran’s Affairs Card and multiple birth children (triplets or above)
Children with additional needs, defined as children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the kindergarten program • require a combination of services which are individually planned • have an identified specific disability or developmental delay 	The child is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second funded year of kindergarten • approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Package, or referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the National Disability Insurance Scheme - Early Childhood Intervention Service - Preschool Field Officer, or - Maternal and Child Health nurse • holds a Child Disability Health Care Card

*as taken from DET Kindergarten Guide 2015

"Where a Verified Priority Child is not offered a place at the kindergarten of their first choice, due to the application of the above criteria, WPSA will work with the family and other kindergartens to ensure the child is offered a place within Whitehorse. WPSA and member kindergartens will act in good faith to try to offer a place which is suitable to the family and meets the Verified Priority Child's needs. "