

## **POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION CENTRES (agreed at EL&L Committee February 2008)**

This policy reflects the changes brought about by incorporating the requirements of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 which advocates as a priority access for children who have additional needs in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004. It also takes account of the need to provide a pre-school education experience that offers flexibility for children and their families. To achieve this Aberdeenshire Council will work closely with partners from the private and voluntary sector.

### **KEY PRINCIPLES**

- All children are entitled to a pre-school education place
- Children will, where possible, have access to pre-school education within their local community schools network
- In line with the presumption of mainstream education, children may be placed in an appropriate setting when their additional support needs cannot be met in a specific pre-school education centre
- Pre-school children and thereafter ante pre-school children will be provided with a pre-school education placement if requested by the parent/guardian
- The Education, Learning and Leisure Service will develop provision in conjunction with pre-school education partners within Aberdeenshire Council local community schools networks

### **ADMISSIONS CRITERIA (3-5 YEARS)**

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| <b>Priority 1</b> | Agreed deferred entry children from the local community schools network   |
| <b>Priority 2</b> | Pre-school and ante pre-school children who are resident in Aberdeenshire and supported by referral from the community schools network inter-agency panel** |
| <b>Priority 3</b> | Pre-school children (four year olds) from the local community schools network   |
| <b>Priority 4</b> | Ante pre-school children (three year olds) from the local community schools network who have a sibling already within the nursery                           |

- Priority 5** Ante pre-school children (three year olds) from the local community schools network
- Priority 6** Children whose childcare is within the local community schools network
- Priority 7** All other eligible children residing in Aberdeenshire
- Priority 8** Children who will occupy less than five sessions weekly, or who have an intermittent sustained pattern of attendance unless due to ill health. (This applies to nursery schools only.)
- Priority 9** Children residing outwith Aberdeenshire

**\*\*** Inter-agency Panel: a Panel in each community schools network comprising colleagues from other services who will consider Priority 2 applications. Their recommendations regarding an appropriate pre-school education placement for individual children will be given to the Admissions Panel for the community schools network.