



Fees

Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management

Relevant Legislation

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) ACT 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011: 168, 172
National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care: Quality Area 7

Aim / Rationale

- ✧ The Yass Montessori Pre-School is committed to educating children aged three to six years using the Montessori philosophy.
- ✧ To enable our service to provide high quality early education and care for children we need to ensure we are financially viable at all times. Prompt payment of fees and fee structure planning allows us to plan with certainty.
- ✧ We have commitment to ensuring our fees are as affordable as possible and that all families have access to any subsidies that are available to reduce those fees.
- ✧ Our Committee will advocate with governments for all children's right to access early education and care regardless of the family's financial situation.
- ✧ Our Pre-School's financial health and access to our service will be maximised by ensuring families are aware of all fees and fee payment requirements upon enrolment.

Policy Goals

Yass Montessori Pre-School will ensure:

- ✧ Families are aware of all fees and fee payment requirements upon enrolment and regularly throughout the year by invoicing and letters.
- ✧ Fees increases are kept to a minimum, and in accordance with the published fee structure at [Attachment A](#).
- ✧ Cost of administering fee collection is minimised.
- ✧ The appropriate priority of access requirements set by the NSW Government are followed.
- ✧ All legal requirements required by our access to government funding are met.
- ✧ Fee collection to prevent or recover bad debts is pursued.

- ✧ Families are notified as far ahead as possible and no less than 14 days of any changes to fees or the way fees will be collected.
- ✧ Invoices are issued at the start of each term.

Strategies: What will we do?

The Approved Provider will:

- ✧ Welcome children in the local community aged three to six years to attend Yass Montessori Pre-School whilst ensuring priority of access rules, and diversity and equality principles are adhered to.
- ✧ Ensure vacant places are filled under the appropriate priority of access policy for the service type, so that access to the Pre-School is in line with legislative and regulatory guidelines.
- ✧ Ensure adequate records of attendance are kept for each child as required.
- ✧ Comply with Australian Government or NSW Government funding agreements as required.
- ✧ Ensure the service remains financially viable and can meet its debts and other obligations as they fall due.
- ✧ Only collect and disclose personal information about children and families to government agencies where the disclosure is legally required.
- ✧ Ensure confidentiality regarding all matters related to fees is recognised and practiced at the Pre-School.
- ✧ Discuss recommendations from the Director, Treasurer and Administrator on a case by case basis when issues arise such as genuine hardship, avoidance of fees and debt collection.
- ✧ Fees will be reviewed in line with any changes to the NSW funding agreement and the following year's Budget. Any increases in fees are made at Committee level and are kept to a minimum for the viable running of the school.
- ✧ In June each year the Pre-School Committee reviews the budget and there may be a possibility of a fee increase.
- ✧ A late collection of children fee will be applied to those families who arrive after 4 pm to collect their child/ren from the Pre-School.

The Nominated Supervisor / Administrator will:

- ✧ Ensure all families are made aware of service fees and any available subsidies on enrolment.
- ✧ Ensure all families are made aware of the procedure in relation to the late collection of children from the Pre-School.
- ✧ Ensure invoices of fees are given to all families at the start of each term.

- ✧ Consider joining in appropriate advocacy actions designed to reduce the cost of early education and care fees for families where ever possible.
- ✧ Ensure families are aware of all payment options.
- ✧ Ensure families are reminded of due dates for fees, and if fees remain outstanding, will send at least one formal reminder to the family before taking any recovery action (which is a last resort).
- ✧ Put up a notice outside the classroom to remind all parents that payment of fees are due.

In practice, at Yass Montessori Pre-School:

- ✧ The Director and Administrator will prepare a proposed budget in consultation with the Treasurer to enable the Committee to set fee levels for the following year or years.
- ✧ The Pre-School will aim to keep fees as low as possible while balancing the Pre-Schools viability.
- ✧ The fee structure will support access through subsidies for low income and indigenous families in line with NSW Government funding models.
- ✧ The Pre-School will inform families/parents of their financial responsibilities through the enrolment and orientation process so that all families are aware of their responsibilities before enrolling their child.
- ✧ Enrolling your child indicates acceptance of our Fees and Enrolment Policies
- ✧ Fee collection will be as simplified and considerate as possible, whilst still ensuring the ongoing viability of the Pre-School and equity for all families.
- ✧ The Director will ensure the Administrator issues invoices and monitors fee collection.
- ✧ The Administrator will raise any concerns about late payment or refusal to pay with the Director as soon as the issue arises.
- ✧ The Director or Administrator will bring fee issues to the attention of the Pre-School Committee for their consideration, without breaching confidentiality of families.
- ✧ Act upon Committee directions in regard to implementing variations to the fee structure, debt collection, providing subsidies for extreme hardship, etc.

Families will:

- ✧ Record the arrival and departure times of their child or children attending care.
- ✧ Collect their children from the Pre-School no later than 4 pm. A late collection of children fee may be incurred.
- ✧ Ensure all fees are kept up to date and paid in full. Fees not paid in full or without appropriate approved repayment arrangements being made (with the Administrator or Director) will need to be paid before 31 October each year before re-enrolment will be considered (see Enrolment Policy).
- ✧ Speak to the Administrator or Director as soon as possible if having difficulty paying fees. All conversations will be in private, and confidentiality maintained for families.
- ✧ Provide two weeks' notice of withdrawal from the Pre-School. Fees will still need to be paid even if the child does not attend for the two weeks. The Director may review this in exceptional cases and if the place can be filled immediately, the Director has full discretion to waive this requirement.

IN THE EVENT OF NON-PAYMENT OF FEES:

If fees are not paid according to the agreed interval on the payment plan and special payment arrangements have not been agreed to by the Pre-School, an overdue statement and/or letter will be issued requesting fees to be paid within a further specified period of time.

A range of attempts, over periods of time, will be made by the Pre-School to make contact with families who do not respond to letters, SMS, emails, phone calls or other approaches made by the Pre-School to address the issue of outstanding fees. The Director is informed of progress.

If satisfactory payment of fees still cannot be negotiated, the debt may be referred to a debt collection agency with the approval of the Director. All legal costs incurred will be payable by the family.

Evaluation

Families pay fees on time and collect children on time. Fees are kept as low as possible whilst enduring the Pre-School's financial viability.

Links to other Policies

Enrolment

Grievance Procedures

Arrival and Departure

Family Handbook

Confidentiality

Procedures and Forms

Enrolment form

Attendance Record

Late Collection of Children

Sources and References

DEEWR Child Care Services Handbook 2011-2012. (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations). www.deewr.gov.au

Family Handbook

Privacy Law. www.privacy.gov.au/law

Early Childhood Australia (ECA). Code of Ethics.
www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/codeofethics

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) Belonging Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
www.acecqa.gov.au

ECA Code of Ethics www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

Community Early Learning Australia (CELA) : NQF in a Box: www.cela.org.au

Community Connections Solutions Australia (CCSA) www.ccsa.org.au

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
July 2013	Developed	2012
November 2019	Fees update and amend to two weeks' notice of withdrawal	October 2020
August 2021	Fees and sources update	2022

The Yass Montessori Pre-school fee structure is as follows:

- ✧ **A one off non-refundable enrolment fee of \$50 is payable upon lodgment off Enrolment Form, or your child’s enrolment form will not be processed.**
- ✧ **A fee per day is payable for each child attending the Pre-School. Fees are reviewed and set by the Committee and families will be given as much notice as possible about fee increases. Families are invoiced each term.**

FEES FOR 2022 ARE:

Eligibility	Fee
Funded 4 and 5 year old children (2 days minimum)	\$39.00 per day
Funded 3 year old children (2 days minimum)	\$39.00 per day
Health care card / ATSI	\$22.00 per day
Casual Day * (no discounts apply)	\$45.00 per day
3, 4 and 5 year old children attending one day	\$50.00 per day
Fundraising Levy	\$30 per family per term

All fees must be paid when they are due. Invoices will generally be sent out by week two of each school term, and full payment is required by the end of week four, or as indicated by the **due date** on the account itself (unless prior arrangements have been made with the Administrator). The Administrator will issue all relevant receipts upon request. Fees are not refundable if the child is absent (for example, personal holidays, if injured or ill, staff development days, public holidays or if the child is not immunised).

After due consultation with the family, the Pre-School may reject the attendance of any child whose fees have not been paid. Enrolment for the following term or the following year may be rejected by the Pre-School if fees remain outstanding and appropriate arrangements have not already been made and adhered to.

The full day fee is payable regardless of how long the child attends on a particular day. The hours a child may attend are 8.30 am to 4 pm each day. Children must be collected from the premises by 4 pm as the Pre-School is not licensed to hold children after that time. A late collection fee may apply.

***Casual days** – Parents may request that a child attend on a day they are not normally enrolled if the Administrator knows another child will be away or a temporary (day) vacancy happens to become available.