

## West Lakes Kindergarten and Early Childhood Centre

294 Sportsmans Drive West Lakes 5021

### Policies and Guidelines

## DECD Speech and Language Program

Speech and Language Programs provide a high level of specialised support for children with severe specific speech and/or language impairments. Their primary area of need is communication, while learning and development in other areas is similar to that of other children their age.

The program aims to strengthen children's communication by improving their talking and listening skills, ability to learn and to interact with others.

### Is my child eligible to attend a Speech and Language Program?

#### Preschool speech and language programs

There are eight preschools in metropolitan Adelaide that specialise in offering speech and language programs. This support may be delivered through:

- individual and small group activities focusing on talking and listening skills
- direct teaching through play
- the use of new skills across all areas of learning.

#### Eligibility

The programs are available to children who are:

- able to attend the program for at least three terms in their eligible preschool year - Aboriginal children and those under state care may be eligible from the age of three
- within the average range or above for non-verbal intelligence
- within normal hearing as shown by a test within the past 12 months
- making slow progress with regular speech pathology support
- diagnosed by a speech pathologist as having a severe speech or language impairment
- not diagnosed with a significant additional disability, syndrome or disorder.

Acceptance is based on the level of need.

#### How to apply

Children can be referred to a program by a speech pathologist.

#### Where to get more information

For more information on preschool speech and language programs contact your regional office:

- Northern Adelaide area - phone 8256 8111
- Eastern Adelaide area - phone 8366 8800
- Southern Adelaide area - phone 8207 3700
- Western Adelaide area - phone 8416 7333.

#### Staff

- A Speech and Language Teacher,
- A DECD Speech Pathologist,
- The Staff and the Director of the Kindergarten

#### Session Times

Monday

**9am to 3.00 p.m.**

Tuesday Morning

**9am to 12pm**

Wednesday

**9 a.m. to 3.00pm**

**For further information, please see the DECD Speech and Language Guidelines available on the DECD website or phone DECD Western Adelaide Office on 8416 7333 or the Director of the centre.**