

## **NURSERY ADMISSIONS POLICY**

Admission policies and procedures and provision are the same for all children regardless of needs or abilities. This is in line with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the SEN code of practice (2001) which states that a child with a disability should be treated no less favourably than a child who does not have a disability.

### **LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISION**

Rochdale LA is traditionally a high quality provider of pre-school services. There are currently 44 nursery schools and nursery classes. Children usually start in a nursery class or nursery school in the September after their third birthday on a part-time basis attending either morning or afternoon sessions.

However, four nursery schools (Derby Street, Howard Street, South Street and Sunnybrow) have the ability to intake throughout the year if low numbers allow. This means that children can start at these nursery schools in the term immediately after their third birthday.

### **NURSERY EDUCATION GRANT PLACES PROVISION**

Children aged three and four can claim up to five 2 1/2 hour education sessions per week during term time. Current funding for three and four year olds is £424.00 per term and the grant is paid direct to the provider (not to parents). Additional hours (including wraparound care) would have to be paid for and if your child attends less than the maximum number of sessions per week the amount of grant is reduced on a pro rata basis. Children already attending a Local Authority setting e.g. LA nursery will already be accessing their free early years place and cannot make an additional claim.

The table below shows the first terms in which children are entitled to a free part-time education place.

For example a child born on 5 October 2002 will be aged three on 5 October 2005. This child can have an early education place for up to three terms starting the Spring term 2006 (the term following their **third birthday**).

When the Spring term is extended to April (due to Easter) the cut off date to qualify for the Summer term grant remains 31st March

### **Four Year Olds**

If your child is four years old they are automatically eligible for the nursery grant.

### **Application**

Most Local Authority Nursery Classes and schools have only one intake per year. For this reason parents/carers will need to make contact early in the Autumn term (September-December) following the child's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday to request an application from your chosen nursery.

## **Allocation of Places**

If there are more applications than there are places, then allocations will be:

### **Priority 1**

1a Linguistic – where there is evidence of limited or late language development and written evidence of a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Services.

1b Medical, Psychological or Social needs which are likely to affect learning. Supporting evidence is needed either from the Consultant Community Paediatrician, the Educational Psychology Service, or, in the case of a child on the child protection register or involved in a child protection enquiry, supporting evidence from Social Services.

1c Family where there are three or more children under 5 years old living full time in the household at the time of application

### **Priority 2**

Proximity to the school measured by the nearest walking distance along roads or maintained footpaths, from the parental home which is the child's main residence. Confirmation of the main residence is required such as a child benefit book or utility bill.

### **Attendance**

Although not statutory, regular attendance is important. If the child does not attend regularly without good reason, the Headteacher will write to the parents after three weeks absence to enquire whether the place is still required. If there is no response or no good reason, the place can be withdrawn but this must be confirmed in writing.

### **Funding**

The Nursery Education Grant covers provision of 12.5 hours, 38 weeks of the year across the voluntary, or private sector for three and four year olds. Children attending Local Authority provision do not get a grant as they are receiving their entitlement in kind. From April 2007 the Nursery Education grant entitlement in Rochdale Borough will increase from 12.5 hours to 15 hours per week. This is due to the Department of Skills choosing Rochdale to pilot this increase before it is introduced nationally in 2010. With the increased grant comes more flexibility. For example the current 12.5 hours entitlement is divided into five 2.5 sessions. From April 2007 if parents wish to use the entitlement spread over 3 days instead of five days they will be able to.

Full details of the scheme will be available in October 2006. Information will be distributed on this at that time.

**September 2006**