

Law on Preschool Institutions

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(Unofficial translation)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Act shall regulate preschool education provided by public and private preschool institutions.

Article 2

(Basic Tasks of Preschool Institutions)

The basic tasks of preschool institutions shall be to assist parents in holistic child care, to improve the quality of life for families and children, and to create conditions for the development of children's physical and mental capacities.

Article 3

(Principles of Preschool Education in Preschool Institutions)

Preschool education in preschool institutions shall be a component part of the education system based on the principles of:

- democracy,
- pluralism,
- staff's autonomy, professionalism and responsibility,
- equal opportunity for children and parents, taking into account differences among children,
- choice and the right to be different,
- keeping a balance among various aspects of the child's physical and mental development.

Article 4

(Goals of Preschool Education)

The goals of preschool education in preschool institutions shall be:

- to develop the ability to understand and accept oneself and the others;
- to develop the capacity to negotiate, allow for differences and to participate in groups;
- to develop the capacity to recognize feelings and encourage emotional experience and expression;
- to foster curiosity, inquisitive spirit, imagination and intuition and the development of independent thinking;
- to encourage language development for the efficient and creative use of language and later also of reading and writing;
- to encourage artistic experience and expression;

- to transfer the knowledge in various fields of science and daily life;
- to encourage physical and motor development;
- to develop children's independence in personal hygiene and in the care for their health.

Article 5
(Language)

In preschool institutions, education shall be carried out in the Slovene language.

Pursuant to a special Act, in areas defined as areas with mixed populations of Slovene and Italian nationalities, children in preschool institutions offering education in Slovene shall learn Italian, children in preschool institutions offering education in Italian shall learn Slovene.

Pursuant to a special Act, in areas defined as areas with mixed populations of Slovene and Hungarian nationalities, preschool institutions shall offer bilingual education in the Slovene and Hungarian languages.

Article 6
(Implementing Minority Rights)

The provision of special rights of the Italian and Hungarian minorities in the Republic of Slovenia concerning preschool education shall be regulated by a special Act.

Article 7
(Rights of Romanies)

Preschool education of the children of Romanies shall be carried out in compliance with this Act and other laws.

Article 8
(Children with Special Needs)

Pursuant to this Act, children with special needs include mentally impaired, blind and sight impaired, deaf and hearing impaired, speech impaired children, children with motor handicaps and with behavior and emotional disturbances who need differentiated instruction with additional professional help or special programs.

Preschool education of children with special educational needs shall be carried out in compliance with this Act and other regulations.

Article 9
(The Right to Choose a Program)

Parents shall have the right to choose preschool programs for their children in public or private preschool institutions.

Children who cannot attend preschool institutions because of illness can be offered preschool education in their home (hereinafter: home preschool education).

Unless provided otherwise, the stipulations of the law regulating the placement of children with special educational needs in education programs shall be complied with in guaranteeing the rights defined in paragraph 2 of this Article.

More detailed requirements and procedures for the implementation of the right defined in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be set forth by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education.

Article 10
(Placement in Public Preschool Institutions to Be Guaranteed)

When there is no public preschool institution in a child's home community or the existing public preschool institution has no places available, although the number of applicants meets the criteria and standards for the formation of an additional class, the local community shall have the obligation to initiate a procedure to provide additional places within a public preschool institution or launch a tender for granting a concession within 30 days after the parents' expression of such an interest at the latest.

Article 11
(Presentation of Preschool Programs)

Preschool institutions shall describe the programs they provide, their objectives, contents and work methods in a special publication for parents.

Public preschool institutions shall also include in the publication the opinion of the Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education that the program is appropriate.

Compulsory parts of the publication shall be defined by the minister.

II. ORGANIZATION AND CONTENTS OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN PRESCHOOL
INSTITUTIONS

Article 12
(Programs for Preschool Children)

Programs for preschool children carried out by public preschool institutions shall be adopted by the Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education.

Programs for preschool children shall include:

- the name of the program,
- philosophical premises,
- educational fields and objectives,
- manners and forms of cooperation with parents.

The providers of programs for preschool children shall be determined by the local community or by several local communities if so agreed among them.

Article 13

(Adoption of Private Preschool Institution Programs)

Programs for preschool children in private preschool institutions shall be defined by the founders or the appropriate body of the preschool institution in compliance with the charter.

The program specified in the preceding paragraph shall define the duration, objectives and contents of education.

Prior to the launch of a program for preschool children, private preschool institutions shall obtain a positive opinion from the Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education that the program is appropriate.

When a private preschool institution offers education programs based on special pedagogical principles (Steiner, Decroly, Montessori and similar), the Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education shall grant a positive opinion after having stated that the program has been recognized by the appropriate international association.

Article 14 (Programs in Preschool Institutions)

With regard to their duration, the following programs can be offered by preschool institutions:

- full-day programs lasting six to nine hours per day, which can be offered in the morning, in the afternoon, over the whole day or in shifts;
- part-day programs lasting four to six hours per day, which can be offered in the morning, in the afternoon or in shifts;
- short programs lasting 240 to 600 hours per year for children in remote areas or areas with a declining population.

Full- and part-day programs are offered to children between the age of one and school-entering age. They shall include education, care and meals for children.

Short programs are offered to children between the age of three and school-entering age. They shall include education and care and possibly meals for children.

In public preschool institutions and institutions operating on the basis of a concession, the programs of the first paragraph of this Article shall be carried out in compliance with standards and criteria set forth by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education after having obtained the opinion of the Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education.

Standards and criteria shall define the work load of educators, criteria for the formation of classes, criteria for the establishment of a counseling service, administrative, accounting and technical departments, required personnel qualifications, space and equipment as well as the cost of material in public preschool institutions.

Special standards and criteria shall apply to regions with specific development problems, mixed ethnicity areas and to the education of Romany children.

Article 15

(Age Groups)

Preschool education in preschool institutions shall be offered for two age groups:

- the first age group: children aged one to three, and
- the second age group: children between the age of three and school entering age.

Article 16 (Classes)

In preschool institutions, education shall be offered in classes.

Children can be grouped in homogeneous, heterogeneous or mixed age classes.

Homogeneous classes include children of the same age, within a span of one year.

Heterogeneous classes include children of the first or second age group.

Mixed classes include children of the first and second age group.

Article 17 (Numbers of Children and Educators per Class)

The number of children in a class of the first-age group shall not exceed twelve, in a class of the second-age group twenty-two.

Full- and part-day programs shall be conducted by preschool teachers and their assistants. For classes of the first-age group, both shall be present at least six hours a day, for classes of the second-age group at least four hours a day.

Short programs can be conducted by preschool teachers alone.

More detailed stipulations concerning the number of children per class shall be set forth by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education.

Article 18 (Family Child Education and Care Providers)

Preschool institutions can also offer child education and care in a family child education and care program. This education and care scheme is provided in a home environment by preschool teachers or their assistants employed in a preschool institution or by a private preschool teacher.

This education and care scheme can be provided to first-age group children by the providers of the preceding paragraph meeting qualification requirements for preschool teachers or their assistants; for second-age group children, it can be provided by individuals meeting qualification requirements for preschool teachers, provided that the premises and equipment comply with respective standards and criteria.

Preschool institutions shall conclude a contract, following a public request for proposals, with private preschool teachers stipulated in the preceding paragraph.

The contracts stipulated in the preceding paragraph of this Article shall conform to the spirit of the stipulations of the Organization and Funding of Education Act concerning concessions.

More detailed stipulations concerning family child education and care providers shall be set forth by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education.

Article 19 (Home Preschool Education)

Preschool institutions can organize home preschool education for children who cannot attend preschool institutions because of illness.

Home preschool education shall be provided by individuals meeting the requirements of paragraph two of Article 18 of this Act.

Preschool education stipulated in paragraph one of this Article can be organized by a legal entity which is not a preschool institution, provided that it is registered for this kind of activity and employs the staff meeting the requirements of paragraph two of Article 18 of this Act.

More detailed stipulations concerning home preschool education shall be set forth by the minister.

Article 20 (Registration and Admission of Children)

Public preschool institutions register and admit children to their programs on the basis of applications during the whole year.

If the number of children registered exceeds the number of places available, decisions concerning the admission shall be made by the admission committee.

The composition of and work procedures for an admission committee and admission criteria shall be set forth by the council of a preschool institution in agreement with the founder. The committee shall be appointed by the principal.

Upon a child's admission to a preschool institution, parents shall submit the child's health certificate issued by a pediatrician.

In admitting children to a preschool institution, preference shall be given to children from economically disadvantaged families submitting the appropriate certificate of a welfare center..

Children with special needs shall be given preference in admission to preschool institutions.

Article 21 (Annual Work Plan)

The organization and detailed components of school life in preschool institutions shall be set forth by annual work plans adopted by the councils of preschool institutions.

Annual work plans shall determine the institution's organization and operating hours, programs, education and care of children in family child care facilities, placement of children in classes, work of professional and other staff in the institution, cooperation with parents, cooperation with education and care, health and other facilities, tutoring of probationary teachers, community relations, cooperation with schools training staff in the field of preschool education, staff development programs, work programs of institution's professional bodies, and personnel, material and other requirements for carrying out the educational process.

Article 22
(Subordinate Legislation Concerning Educational Records)

Preschool institutions shall keep educational records set forth by the minister.

III. OCCASIONAL HOME CARE OF CHILDREN

Article 23
(Requirements)

Preschool institutions may organize occasional home care of children.

Occasional home care of children may be provided by preschool teachers, their assistants, and counselors of preschool institutions (hereinafter: child care professionals) and free-lance child care providers.

Free-lance child care providers are individuals with at least a secondary school degree or individuals with at least five years of work experience in education and child care.

Preschool institutions shall conclude contracts defining their mutual rights and obligations with child care professionals and free-lance child care providers.

Pursuant to general liability regulations, preschool institutions shall be liable for damage caused by child care professionals and free-lance child care providers in providing home child care.

More detailed conditions concerning occasional home child care shall be set forth by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education.

Pursuant to the stipulations of this Act, occasional home care of children may be also organized by other legal entities registered for the performance of such activities.

Article 24
(Registration of Occasional Home Child care Providers)

Preschool institutions shall keep a register of occasional home child care providers.

The register of occasional home child care providers shall include:

- name, family name, address and telephone number at which the provider is accessible,
- date of birth,
- sex,
- formal qualifications,
- special knowledge.

Occasional home child care providers shall be removed from the register after the termination of the contract specified in paragraph four of the preceding Article or after having been forbidden to carry out such activity by a final judgment.

The ministry having jurisdiction over preschool education shall keep a register of individuals forbidden to provide occasional home child care in order to make sure that they do not carry out child care again.

The register shall include:

- name, family name and address,
- date of birth, and
- legal base for the prohibition of the occasional home child care provision.

The data of this register is permanent and may be forwarded only to preschool institutions specified in Article 23 of this Act.

IV. FUNDING

Article 25 (Sources)

Preschool education programs shall be funded by:

- public resources,
- founders,
- fees paid by parents,
- donations and other resources.

Article 26 (Financial Control)

The use of public funding in preschool institutions shall be controlled by the Court of Auditors of the Republic of Slovenia.

The use of public funding according to its purpose shall be controlled by the school inspectorate.

Article 27 (Surplus)

The surplus of income over expenditure obtained by the sale of products or services and created by providing educational or other services in compliance with the charter shall be used for covering the costs of material, maintenance and investments; upon the prior consent of the founder, it may also be used for salaries.

The criteria for the appropriation of the surplus of income over expenditure shall be set forth by the minister.

1. Public Preschool Institutions

Article 28 (Funding by Local Community)

The difference between the price of programs and the fees paid by parents shall be provided from local community budgets to finance the salaries, benefits, taxes and deductions of preschool employees as well as the cost of material in compliance with standards and criteria.

The funding of the preceding paragraph shall be provided by the local community in which parents permanently reside. The local community shall also provide funding for children whose parents are temporary residents of that local community if at least one of them is a taxpayer in the Republic of Slovenia.

Local community budgets shall also provide funding for maintenance and investments in premises and equipment of public preschool institutions and possibly preschool institutions operating on the basis of a concession.

Article 29 (State Budget)

Funding for the following shall be provided from the state budget:

- preschool classes in hospitals operating at the state level,
- preschool classes in state founded educational institutions for children with special needs,
- the higher cost of classes provided education in Italian and bilingual education classes in Slovene and Hungarian as well as classes of Romany children,
- part of investments in premises and equipment in areas with nationally mixed population.

Article 30 (Fees Paid by Parents)

The basis for fees paid by parents shall be the price of the program attended by a child. The price of the program shall include the cost of education, care and meals for the child in a preschool institution; it shall not include investments nor maintenance.

The basis for fees paid by the parents of children with special needs shall be the price of the program provided to other children of the same age.

Article 31 (Determination of Program Prices)

Prices of programs of the preceding Article shall be determined by the founders of preschool institutions or concession grantors upon a proposal made by the preschool institution.

Article 32
(Determination of Fees Paid by Parents)

Fees to be paid by parents shall be determined by local communities on the basis of a scale that groups parents into classes based on the income per family member in comparison with the average salary in the Republic of Slovenia and on a family's assets.

Parents receiving supplementary allowance pursuant to welfare regulations shall be exempt from paying the fees.

In exceptional cases, local communities may, on the basis of the opinion of the competent tax authority or welfare service, consider other facts and circumstances reflecting a family's true social status in addition to the income and property specified in paragraph one of this Article, when determining the fee to be paid by parents.

If more than one child attends the preschool institution, the fee for older children shall be decreased by one class.

Notwithstanding the stipulations of this Article, the parents not bearing the income tax liability in the Republic of Slovenia shall pay the full price of the program attended by their child.

Article 33
(Statutory Instruments)

The scale, the revenues counted towards the income per family member, and the property to be considered in determining the fees, the method for their assessment as well as the manner and procedure for obtaining fee reductions shall be set forth by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education.

2. Private Preschool Institutions

Article 34
(Funding Requirements)

Private preschool institutions shall be eligible for funding by local communities if they meet the following requirements:

- at least half-day programs are offered;
- the number of children enrolled is sufficient to form at least two classes;
- preschool teachers are employed on a regular or some other basis in compliance with the law and other regulations;
- access is open for all children.

Private preschool institutions shall be eligible to receive 85% of the funds per individual child provided by a local community to cover the costs of salaries and material in public preschool institutions.

The amount to be paid by a local community shall be calculated on the basis of the average amount of funding provided to public preschool institutions by the respective local community in its area.

If there is no public preschool institution in the area of a local community, the amount of subsidies of the preceding paragraph shall be calculated on the basis of the average amount of funding per child provided to public preschool institutions in the Republic of Slovenia.

Article 35 (Limited Salaries)

Salaries of child care professionals in private preschool institutions funded by public means shall be determined in compliance with the law and other regulations which apply to public preschool institutions.

If the salaries are determined contrary to the stipulations of the preceding paragraph, the funding by a local community shall be terminated.

Article 36 (Funding Contracts)

The funding and obligations of a private preschool institution shall be determined in more detail by a contract.

3. Home Preschool Education

Article 37 (Funding of Home Preschool Education)

On the basis of a decree issued by a school authority, preschool education institutions and other legal entities providing home preschool education shall be eligible for funding in the same amount as provided to private preschool institutions by the local community of children's permanent residence.

4. Preschool Education Development

Article 38

The following shall be funded from the state budget:

- research and experiments, in-service education and training, information and documentary services,
- professional meetings;
- School for Principals;
- employment and training of probationary teachers;
- scholarships for students in education and tuition fee subsidies;
- periodicals for children and professional periodicals and subsidies for professional publications;
- national awards to educators;
- international cooperation.

V. ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSOCIATIONS

Article 39
(Establishment of Associations)

Preschool institutions and other legal entities providing preschool education programs may establish associations of institutions in order to jointly solve their problems, cooperate with professional and administrative bodies and perform other common tasks.

VI. EMPLOYEES OF PRESCHOOL INSTITUTIONS

Article 40
(Qualification Requirements)

Educational activities in public preschool institutions shall be performed by preschool teachers, preschool teachers' assistants, counselors, health and hygiene professional, nutritionist, and others.

Preschool teachers of classes offering special programs for children with special needs of preschool age shall complete the same level of education as required for other preschool teachers and shall possess a special education qualification.

Preschool classes including children with special needs may be taught by preschool teachers with a degree in general preschool education or in special education.

Preschool teachers shall possess:

- a short-type higher education degree or an undergraduate university degree obtained by the completion of study programs specializing in preschool education; or
- an undergraduate university degree in the appropriate field and a certificate obtained by a completion of a course of study in preschool education.

Preschool teacher's assistants shall:

- possess a secondary school diploma obtained by the completion of education programs specializing in preschool education; or
- complete a *gymnasium* and a vocational course in preschool education.

Counselors shall possess an undergraduate university degree in the appropriate field and pedagogical qualifications.

Health and hygiene professionals and nutritionists shall possess at least a short-type higher education degree in the appropriate field.

Article 41
(Work Load of Preschool Teachers and Assistants)

The work load of preschool teachers shall include preparation for, planning and execution of educational activities, cooperation with parents, and participation in the organization of life and work in preschool institutions.

The work load of preschool teacher's assistants shall include their cooperation with preschool teachers in the preparation, planning and execution of educational activities in the group and other tasks related to the activities of preschool institutions.

Pursuant to the stipulations of the law and collective agreement regulating the full weekly work load, the weekly number of contact hours shall not exceed 30 for preschool teachers and 35 for their assistants.

IX. COLLECTION AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

Article 42

(Application of Regulations on the Protection of Personally Identifiable Information)

Preschool institutions shall collect, process, store, submit, keep and use the personal data contained in records kept in compliance with the regulations on the protection of personally identifiable information unless otherwise provided by this Act.

a) Records

Article 43

(Types of Records in Preschool Institutions)

In order to provide preschool education, monitor the activities and for statistical use, preschool institutions shall keep the following files:

1. records of enrolled and admitted children;
2. records of fees paid by parents;
3. records of children needing support and counseling;
4. records of occasional home child care providers.

b) Contents and Objectives of Individual Records

Article 44

(Records of Enrolled and Admitted Children)

Records of enrolled and admitted children shall include:

- first and family name and address of children and their parents;
- children's date of birth and sex;
- address and telephone number of the individual who can be reached during child's stay at preschool;
- data on children's health characteristics necessary for the reasons of children's safety and working with them.

Children's personal data shall be collected to enable appropriate work with children in carrying out the programs and cooperation with parents.

Article 45
(Records of Fees Paid by Parents and Social Status of Families)

Preschool institutions shall keep records of fees paid by parents.

The records of fees paid by parents shall contain the data on:

- individual fee amounts to be paid by parents,
- parents' monthly fee payments.

Records of the previous paragraph shall be kept for the purpose of monitoring monthly payments.

Preschool institutions shall obtain the data for line one of paragraph two from the local community competent for determining the amount of fees to be paid by parents.

Records of the social status of the families of children attending a preschool institution shall include data on:

- income, revenue and property of family members;
- number of family members;
- other facts and circumstances influencing the amount of the fee;
- fees paid by parents.

Local communities shall collect data for lines one and two of paragraph six of this Article only for parents claiming a reduction in fees.

Local communities shall collect data for line three of paragraph six of this Article only in cases stipulated by paragraph three of Article 32 of this Act.

Founders may delegate the authority to collect data and keep records of the social status of families to preschool institutions.

Article 46
(Records of Children Needing Support and Counseling)

Records of children needing support and counseling shall include:

- family and social anamnesis,
- development anamnesis,
- diagnostic procedures,
- procedures for professional support,
- expert opinions of other institutions: welfare centers, health institutions, counseling and educational support centers.

Personal data on children needing support and counseling shall be collected on the basis of the judgment of the counseling service.

Personal data specified in paragraph one shall be collected in agreement with pupil's parents or legal guardians, with the exception of cases when pupils are endangered by their families and need protection.

Counselors shall be obliged to treat information specified in paragraph one of this Article with professional confidentiality. Other professionals receiving such data due to the nature of their work shall also treat the data with professional confidentiality.

Article 47
(Data Collection Method)

Personal data shall be collected directly from the individuals concerned.

c) Storing Records

Article 48
(Term of Records Storing)

The records for data specified in points one and three of Article 43 shall be deleted within one year after the date a child leaves a preschool institution.

The records for data specified in point two of Article 43 and in paragraph five of Article 45 of this Act shall be deleted after the purpose for which they were collected has been accomplished.

Article 49
(Storing Documents)

Stipulations concerning the keeping, use and storing of personal data records shall also apply to the use and storing of documents serving as the basis for the collection of personal data.

~) Protection of Records

Article 50
(Data Protection)

Preschool institutions may disclose data from their records to the ministry having jurisdiction over preschool education in order to enable it to carry out its regulatory tasks.

Preschool institutions and local communities may disclose data from their records to other administrative bodies or to other organization if they are authorized by law to use such data.

When processed, personally identifiable data may be used and published only in a form that does not disclose an individual's identity.

Article 51

(Statutory Instruments)

More detailed instructions on data collection methods, preschool employees authorized to use the data contained in individual records, the manner of recording the use and release of personal data, the manner of deleting data after the time allowed for its use, and other procedures and measures for the protection of data shall be determined by the minister having jurisdiction over preschool education.

VIII. CONTROL

Article 52 (Compliance with Law)

Administrative control over the operation of preschools in compliance with law and over their meeting the requirements for the provision of preschool education shall be exercised in compliance with law by the School Inspectorate.

IX. PENALTIES

Article 53 (Responsible Officers)

Preschool officers responsible for the operations of preschool institution shall be liable to a minimum penalty of 50,000 Slovene tolar if:

- more than 12 children are placed in classes of the first age group or more than 22 in classes of the second age group (paragraph one of Article 17);
- a preschool teacher and his/her assistant jointly teach less than six hours in a first age group or less than four hours in the second age group (paragraph two of Article 17),
- a child care professional that does not meet qualification requirements is employed on a tenure basis (Article 40);
- mandatory records are not maintained (Articles 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 and 50).

X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 54 (Funding)

Prior to the adoption of preschool education programs in compliance with this Act, the following shall be considered as public service in the field of preschool education and preparation for school:

- preschool education of children between the age of one and their entry into school, including the preparation of children for elementary school;
- education of and care for preschoolers with special needs pursuant to the law;
- programs for preschoolers of Italian and Hungarian ethnic minorities in areas with mixed nationalities;
- programs for preschoolers of Romanians; and
- programs for preschool children of migrant workers abroad.

The activities specified in line one of the preceding paragraph shall be funded from local community budgets, the activities specified in lines two, three and four from local community and state budgets, activities specified in line five of the preceding paragraph from the state budget.

The stipulations of Articles 28 and 29 of this Act shall begin to apply in fiscal year 1996. The stipulations of the Organization and Funding of Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 12/91-I) shall apply for funding in the fiscal year 1995.

Article 55
(Funding of Private Preschool Institutions)

Notwithstanding the stipulations of Article 34 of this Act, three years after entry into force of this Act, private preschool institutions shall be eligible to receive 100% of the funds per individual child provided by a local community to cover the costs of salaries and material in public preschool institutions.

Article 56
(Preschool Teachers)

Preschool teachers having meet the requirements for teaching in preschool institutions prior to entry into force of this Act may continue to teach in preschools after entry into force of this Act.

Article 57
(Nurses)

Preschool teachers with a four-year secondary school degree in nursing or health care and at least five years of work experience on that job on the day of entry into force of this Act may continue to work as preschool teachers.

Article 58
(Preschool Teacher's Assistants)

Employees working as preschool teacher's assistants or preschool teachers who, on the day of entry into force of this Act, possess a four-year secondary school degree and have five years of work experience in the field of preschool education or have completed a school for preschool teacher's assistants and have ten years of work experience may continue to work as preschool teacher's assistants in compliance with this Act.

Employees working as preschool teacher's assistants who, on the day of entry into force of this Act, do not have a degree stipulated for preschool teacher's assistants shall obtain it within seven years after entry into force of this Act at the latest or their employment shall be terminated.

Employees specified in the preceding paragraph who have completed a school for preschool teacher's assistants or have five years of work experience in preschool education shall not be required to complete a vocational course in preschool education.

Article 59
(Counselors)

Counselors having met the requirements for counseling in preschool institutions prior to entry into force of this Act may continue to work as counselors in compliance with this Act.

Article 60
(Nutritionists and Health and Hygiene Professionals)

Nutritionists and health and hygiene professionals not meeting the requirements stipulated by this Act shall obtain the required education within seven years after entry into force of this Act or their employment shall be terminated.

Notwithstanding the stipulations of the preceding paragraph, the nutritionists and health and hygiene professionals who, on the day of entry into force of this Act, have at least twenty years of work experience in the field of education or nutrition, health or hygiene may continue their employment.

Article 61
(Adoption of Curricula)

The Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for General Education shall adopt preschool curricula within two years after entry into force of this Act at the latest.

Article 62
(Adjustment of Programs of Private Preschool Institutions)

The founders of private preschool institutions shall align preschool education programs with this Act and the Organization and Funding of Education Act within four years after entry into force of this Act at the latest.

If the founder of a private preschool institution with a concession agreement does not fulfill the obligations of paragraph one of this Article, the concession agreement shall be terminated by force of law.

Article 63
(Gradual Decrease in the Number of Children per Class)

The number of children per class shall gradually be reduced so as to amount, on 1 September 1997, to no more than 14 children per a class of the first age group, and to no more than 24 children per a class of the second age group.

On 1 September 2000, first age group classes shall consist of no more than 12 children and second age group classes of no more than 22 children.

Article 64
(Staff)

Paragraph two of Article 17 of this Act shall apply beginning 1 September 1997.

Article 65

(Subordinate Legislation)

Subordinated legislation pursuant to this Act shall be issued by the minister within one year after entry into force of this Act.

Until entry into force of the subordinate legislation stipulated by this Act, the following existing subordinate legislation shall remain in force except when in conflict with this Act:

- Self-management Agreement on Implementing Social and Welfare Rights (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia No. 27/89);
- Regulations on the Maximum Permissible Number of Children in the Classes of Education and Care Institutions and on the Surveillance of Children (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia No. 20/80 and 16/81);
- Regulations of Educational Records in Education and Care Institutions (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia No. 20/80);
- Order on the Adoption of Contents for the Preparation of Children for School Entry (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia No. 22/81);
- Order on the Education and Care Program for Preschool Children of Slovene Nationals with Yugoslav Citizenship Temporarily Working Abroad (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia No. 32/80);
- Standards and Criteria for Social Education of Preschoolers.

Article 66

(Repealed Legislation)

This Act shall repeal the Preschool Education and Care Act (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia No. 5/80), with the exception of the provisions referring to the preparation for elementary school (paragraph two of Article 11, Articles 13, 14, 31 and 42) which shall cease to apply on 1 September 2000.

Article 67

(Entry into Force)

This Act shall take effect on the fifteenth day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.