



Providing a Child Safe Environment

Policy Statement

Children's safety and wellbeing are paramount at our service and will be fostered through responsive relationships, engaging experiences and a safe and healthy environment.

Background

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place for providing a child safe environment to minimise risk of harm and hazard to children attending education and care services.

Implementation

- In addition to the NBCA Child Protection Policy, the NBCA will ensure the premises are safe and secure to allow provision of a safe environment for children.
- All children attending our service are provided with a safe environment.
- Children's wellbeing is paramount and children will be actively involved in decision-making to provide an environment that encourages them to reach their potential.
- Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.
- At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
- Procedures to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are in place and regularly rehearsed.
- Nominated supervisors, educators and staff members at the service who work with children are advised of the existence and application of the current child protection law (or child safe standards, where applicable) and any obligations that they may have under that law.
- Where the program involves simultaneous use of indoor and outdoor environments, educators will effectively supervise children in both environments.
- The development, implementation and monitoring of procedures for identifying, mitigating and, where necessary, preventing hazards. For example, authorised officers may see the types of precautions outlined below being taken at the education and care service as evidence of meeting this requirement.
- Educators and staff will ensure appropriate levels of supervision, privacy and autonomy are provided. The younger the children are, the greater the need for an adult to be close by to support and assist them.
- For young children, adequate supervision will involve children remaining in close proximity to the adult who is supervising them. Supervision of infants and toddlers who are sleeping is ensured when educators can see and hear them



Induction and on-going training

Staff will receive training during induction as well as on-going regular yearly training on all aspects relating to this policy and Child Protection.

Policy Links

Policies:

- Arrival and Pickup of Children
- Authorisations and Access
- Behaviour Guidance and Self-Regulation
- Child Protection
- Code of Conduct
- Confidentiality and Privacy
- Duty of Care
- Employment
- Exclusion
- Health, Hygiene and Infection Control
- Interactions with Children, Families and Staff
- Supervision
- Workplace Health and Safety

NQS: 1.1, 2.2, 5.1, 5.2 and 7.1

Regulations: 82 – 84, 103, 115, 112-123A, 124, 165-172 and 175 (d) (e)

Sources:

- ACT Ombudsman
- Children and Young People Act 2021
- Child and Youth Protection Services
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics, 2016
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe Handbook
- National Quality Framework
- ACECQA: Policy Guideline – Providing a child safe environment (www.acecqa.gov.au)

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