

EXCURSION/INCURSION POLICY

Excursions/incursions enhance children's learning by providing them the opportunity to participate in curriculum planned activities and experiences to extend their skills and knowledge in the current interest topic. Our Service recognises that excursions provide opportunities for children to explore the wider community as a group and extend the educational program provided.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.
2.2.3	Child Safety and Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding child safety, including the need to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect
QUALITY AREA 7: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP		
7.1.2	Management System	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service that is child safe.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
S. 2A	Paramount consideration—safety, rights and best interests of children
S. 51	Conditions of service approval
S.165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
S. 166A	Offence relating to inappropriate conduct
S.167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
4	Definitions
89	First Aid Kits
90	Medical conditions policy
97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
98	Telephone or other communication equipment

99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
102	Authorisation for excursion
102B	Transport risk assessment must be conducted before service transports child
102C	Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service
102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
102E	Children embarking a means of transport – centre-based services
102F	Children disembarking a means of transport – centre-based services
122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
123	Educator to child ratios-centre-based services
136	First Aid qualifications
149	Volunteers and students
151	Record of educators working directly with children
158	Children's attendance records to be kept by approved provider
160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider and family day care educator
161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
168	Policies and procedures are required
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

RELATED POLICIES

Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy Administration of Medication Policy Administration of First Aid Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Delivery of Children to, and Collection from and Education and Care Service Premises	Interaction with Children, Family and Staff Policy Orientation of Families Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Respect for Children Policy Safe Transportation Policy Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy
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Educational Program Policy Emergency and Evacuation Policy Family Communication Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy	Sun Safety Policy Supervision Policy Water Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

To ensure that all excursions and incursions undertaken by the Service are carefully planned and conducted in a safe manner, maintaining children's health, safety and wellbeing at all times in accordance with Education and Care National Regulations. We believe excursions/incursions provide the children with the opportunity to expand and enhance their skills and knowledge gaining insight into their local and wider community. We are committed to complying with all relevant legislation to support the planning, authorisation, supervision and risk management of all excursions and incursions to ensure children's safety, rights and best interests are the paramount consideration. This includes ensuring the safe use of digital technologies and online environments during excursions and incursions, in line with our policies to protect children's privacy, safety and wellbeing.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students and volunteers of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the approved provider must ensure policies and procedures are in place for managing excursions. (ACECQA, June 2021). Excursions and incursions will be always conducted with the children's safety and wellbeing in mind. We may regularly schedule incursions and visitors to our Service however, if we feel an excursion will benefit the children and offer a valuable experience, we will adhere to the National Regulations and Service policies and procedures to plan and manage an experience that is enjoyable and educational for children. This policy relates to excursions that may be a 'regular outing' or a one-off excursion for a particular purpose and incursions, where visiting performers, groups or community services may visit our Service.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

The purpose of the excursion should be clearly identified by staff providing information on how the excursion or incursion supports the educational program and contributes to the outcomes for children. Excursions/incursions should be planned in advance and consideration given to the:

- time away from the service
- availability of toilet and washing facilities
- access to safe drinking water
- adequate health and hygiene practices
- possible risk to children (identified in risk assessment)
- accessibility for all children
- transportation
- cost (excursions and incursions if applicable)
- weather- wet weather arrangements
- Risk Assessment documentation provided by the excursion venue
- teaching children safety procedures and responsibilities whilst on an excursion
- safety and wellbeing of children whilst at the service whilst participating in an incursion (identified in risk assessment)
- communication between educators participating in the excursion and the Service
- adequate shade and sun protection
- transitions between areas of the venue
- water hazards.

EXCURSION/INCURSION RISK ASSESSMENT

The approved provider or nominated supervisor must conduct a detailed risk assessment which reflects Reg. 101 before an authorisation is scheduled under Reg. 102 to determine the safety and appropriateness of the excursion/incursion. If the excursion involves transporting children, the risk assessment must adhere to all components of regulations 101, 102, 102B, 102C.

If the excursion is a *regular excursion*, or '*regular outing*' a risk assessment authorisation is only required to be carried out once in a 12-month period, however, must be regularly reviewed. If circumstances around the excursion change, a new risk assessment is required.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/MANAGEMENT WILL:

- meet obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Service National Regulations
- develop an *Excursion/Incursion Risk Assessment* and management plan prior to any excursion or incursion and ensure this is approved by the nominated supervisor

- ensure the excursion coordinator is aware of their role and responsibilities, including preparing for the excursion and completing all required documentation
- review risk assessments, authorisation forms and supervision plans for all excursions, before any approval of an excursion is granted
- ensure all educators, students and volunteers participating in the excursion undertake regular head counts at least every
- ensure attendance checks are completed regularly, including prior to leaving the Service, embarking and disembarking from transport, upon arrival at the venue, transitioning between spaces whilst at the venue, leaving the venue, returning to the Service
- consider increasing child to educator ratios in high-risk situations, such as water hazards or busy roads/highways
- ensure child safe standards are always adhered to
- request written authorisation be provided by a parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record
- notify families about any incursion occurring in the Service.

PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORISATION

The approved provider/ nominated supervisor must ensure:

- that a child is not taken outside the Service premises on an excursion unless written authorisation has been provided
- the authorisation must be given by a parent or other authorised person named in the child's enrolment record as having authority to authorise transportation of a child
- the *Excursion/Incursion Authorisation* form states:
 - the child's name
 - the reason the child is to be taken outside the premises
 - the reason the child is to be transported (if transportation is included in the excursion)
 - if the authorisation is for a regular outing, a description of when the child is to be taken on the regular outing
 - the date the child is to be taken on the excursion and transported
 - a description of the proposed pick-up location and destination for the excursion
 - the method of transport to be used for the excursion
 - the proposed activities to be undertaken by the child during the excursion
 - the period the child will be away from the premises
 - the period of time during which the child is to be transported

- the anticipated number of children likely to be attending the excursion
- the anticipated educator to child ratio attending the excursion to the anticipated number of children attending the excursion
- the anticipated number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children on the excursion
- any requirements for seatbelts or safety restraints under a law of each jurisdiction in which the children are being transported
- that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the Service
- that written policies and procedures for transporting children are available at the Service
- written authorisation is obtained once in a 12-month period or whenever there is a change in circumstances, such as a change in location or when new risks are identified if the excursion is a regular outing
- parental/guardian authorisation is provided for an excursion if identified in the risk assessment or if a cost is required.

STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

The approved provider/nominated supervisor will ensure that:

- educator to child ratios are no less than the prescribed ratios as per National Regulations
- additional educators/staff are engaged to provide care and support to children with additional needs
- consideration for ratios include:
 - location of excursion
 - type of excursion
 - risk identified for excursion
 - the number, ages and abilities of children
 - individual needs of each child
 - how children are grouped whilst participating in the excursion
- consideration for adequate supervision includes:
 - the number, age and ability of children
 - the number and physical positioning of educators
 - each child's current activity
 - risks related to the mode of transport (for example: walking)
 - visibility and accessibility
 - the experience and skill of each educator

- at least one educator or the nominated supervisor attending the excursion holds current ACECQA approved first aid qualification, CPR qualification, approved emergency asthma management and approved anaphylaxis management training. (If more than one vehicle is transporting children, at least one person with approved first aid, anaphylaxis and asthma training must travel in each vehicle and be immediately available in an emergency).
- if children remain at the Service and are not participating in the excursion, that at least one educator or the nominated supervisor at the Service holds current ACECQA approved first aid qualification, CPR qualification, approved emergency asthma management and approved anaphylaxis management training
- educators continue to follow National Regulations and Service policies and procedures whilst participating in the excursion away from the Service.

PARENT AND VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

The approved provider/ nominated supervisor will ensure parents and volunteers:

- are encouraged to participate in excursions where possible
- cannot be counted as part of the educator to child ratio
- cannot be left alone with a child/children and must be supervised by an educator at all times
- are briefed prior to participating on an excursion about the risk assessment, emergency procedures, supervision, photograph policy for privacy and confidentiality and use of mobile phone
- are aware that smoking or vaping is not permitted at any time whilst participating in the excursion
- are aware of need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- understand they are to follow the directions of the excursion coordinator as required
- alert the excursion coordinator or staff if they notice a child is missing or unaccounted for or appears unwell

ITEMS TO BE TAKEN ON AN EXCURSION

The approved provider/ nominated supervisor must ensure that the following items are taken on all excursions, as per the risk assessment:

- appropriate number of suitably equipped first aid kits
- fully charged and operating mobile phone
- emergency contact information details for all children participating on the excursion
- medication for children requiring medical and relevant medical management plans
- items required for excursion circumstances- such as sunscreen, hats, other equipment
- child's attendance record

TRANSPORTATION FOR EXCURSIONS

Excursions involving transportation must adhere to the *Safe Transportation Policy* including ensuring a risk assessment has been completed prior to children being transported by the Service and authorisation for the Service to transport children as part of the excursion. It is a requirement of National Regulations that the means of transport is stated on the risk assessment record and parent authorisation record. Information must be included in the risk assessment about the process for embarking and disembarking the means of transport, including how each child is to be accounted for.

CHECK FOR CHILDREN'S SAFETY

During the excursion educators will ensure:

- children's attendance records are taken on excursions
- all children are accounted for when embarking/disembarking the car/vehicle or bus
- children's names are marked off as they enter and leave the vehicle including time and date
- a thorough check is made of the vehicle to ensure no child is left in the vehicle (a second person is required to repeat this check for safety)
- the vehicle is parked to avoid other vehicles, driveways or car parks
- the vehicle is parked as close as possible to the Service premises or visiting venue
- children only disembark the vehicle when it is safe to do so
- head counts are conducted at least every 30 minutes whilst on the excursion
- bathrooms and toilets are checked for any potential hazard before children enter, and children are escorted to the bathrooms and supervised.
- transitions between venue areas are carefully considered, with head counts conducted prior to moving between areas of the venue
- medication is administered to children as per *Administration of Medication Record*

CHILD BECOMES ILL WHILST ON EXCURSION

Educators will:

- assess the child's illness and follow *the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Procedure*, including contacting an ambulance if required
- keep the child calm and comfortable
- if a child has an individual medical management plan for their symptoms displayed, follow the directions and administer medication if applicable and notify parents/guardians
- use the supplies in the excursion first aid kit to assist in applying first aid to child

- seek medical assistance, including ambulance transport, medication if required (as per child's excursion authorisation form)
- contact the child's parents/guardian as soon as possible- (no later than 24 hours after the incident)
- contact the nominated supervisor at the Service for further direction if required
- ensure ratios are maintained for supervision
- complete an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*
- notify the regulatory authority of any serious incident of a child while being educated and cared for at the Service within 24 hours.

LOST CHILD DURING AN EXCURSION

In the event of a child being unaccounted for during an excursion, educators will immediately:

- inform another educator and provide supervision for groups
- conduct a head count
- ask children/parent helpers/other educators if they have seen the missing child
- search the premises
- check organised meeting points (use service-issued mobile phone to contact other educators)
- alert the venue management and request that an announcement is made
- if the child is still unaccounted for after checking as above, the nominated supervisor will contact the Police on 000 and report the incident
- the nominated supervisor will contact parents/guardian
- educators will reassure other children and provide supervision
- the approved provider must make a notification to the regulatory authority within 24 hours of a serious incident

SOURCES

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2026). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)
 Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). (2024). [Excursions Policy and Procedure Guidelines](#)

Australian Government Department of Education. (2022). [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#). V2.0.

[Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010](#)

[Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)

Kidsafe Victoria *Road Safety* <https://www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/>

Kids and Traffic Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program (NSW). (2023). [Transporting Children Safely](#)

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	MAY 2026	NEXT REVIEW DATE	MAY 2027
VERSION NUMBER	V16.05.26		
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• annual policy review• additional child safety legislation added including <i>paramount consideration</i>• sources updated to include updates to National Law and Regulations		
PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS			
MAY/AUGUST 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• resources reviewed and updated• removed National Child Restraints Laws for vehicle section- moved into Safe Transportation Policy• policy reviewed incorporating ACECQA Policy guidelines• reference to <i>Safe Use of Digital technologies and Online Environment Policy</i> added• annual policy maintenance• moved requirements of risk assessment under heading- Excursion/Incursion risk assessment• additional section added: Emergency management during an excursion• sources checked for currency and updated as required		