



Grenfell Preschool
+ LONG DAY CARE CENTRE



Weddin Mobile
Preschool
Service

EXCURSION/INCURSION POLICY

Excursions/incursions enhance children's learning by providing them the opportunity to participate in curriculum planned activities and experiences to extend on 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 on 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. |

| EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS | |
|--|--|
| 4 (1) | Definition regular outing |
| 89 | First Aid Kits |
| 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 |
| 123 | Educator to child ratios-centre-based services |
| 136 | First Aid qualifications |
| 161 | Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record |
| 168 | Policies and procedures are required |
| 170 | Policies and procedures to be followed |

RELATED POLICIES

| | |
|--|--|
| Administration of Medication Policy | Interaction with Children, Family and Staff Policy |
| Administration of First Aid Policy | Orientation of New Families Policy |
| Code of Conduct Policy | Privacy and Confidentiality Policy |
| Educational Program Policy | Respect for Children Policy |
| Emergency Evacuation Policy | Safe Transportation Policy |
| Family Communication Policy | Supervision Policy |
| Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma | Water Safety Policy |

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 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 the wider community.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, educators, staff, Board of Directors, students and volunteers of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Excursions and incursions will always conducted with the children's safety and wellbeing in mind. We will 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.

Definition (effective 1 October 2020)

Excursion: means an outing organised by an education and care service or family day care educator but does not include an outing organised by an education and care service provided on a school site if-

- (a) a child or children leave the education and care service premises in the company of an educator and
- (b) the child or children do not leave the school site



Regular outing: in relation to an education and care service, means a walk, drive or trip to and from a destination

- (a) that the service visits regularly as part of its educational program; and
- (b) where the circumstances relevant to the risk assessment are *substantially* the same on each

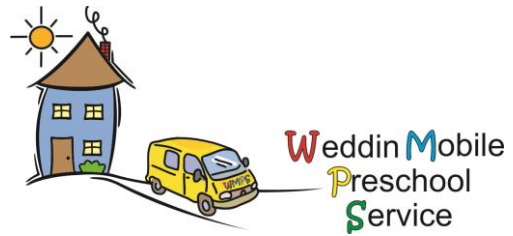
Incursion: means an activity organised by our early childcare service, whereby an outside body is employed or engaged to visit the service to run an educational program and to promote culture and diversity. This could include a visit from a dentist, the Rural Fire Service, an Aboriginal Cultural awareness group, science or reptile show or a musical or drama performance. Some incursions may be offered free of charge whilst others may incur a small participation cost.

Considerations for excursions and incursions

The purpose of the excursion should be clearly identified by educators 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)



Excursion Risk Assessment

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor must conduct a detailed risk assessment which reflects Regulation 101 before an authorisation is scheduled under Regulation 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 and 102 (effective 1 October 2020).

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure:

- an *Excursion/Incursion Risk Assessment* and management plan is developed prior to any excursion or incursion [see: Excursion Risk Management Plan, Regular Outing Risk Management Plan, Incursion Risk Management Plan]
- a responsible person (or coordinator) is appointed to oversee the organisation of the excursion/incursion
- families are notified about the excursion using an *Excursion Permission* Letter and written authorisation must be provided by a parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record
- families are notified about any incursion and if permission is required for participation, an *Incursion Permission* letter provided for parent or carer consent for their child to participate
- families have a right to view the risk assessment prior to the excursion/incursion upon request in which the Service must comply with ensuring all information is available
- the risk assessment must
 - identify and assess possible risks that the excursion/incursion may pose to the health, safety and wellbeing of any child being taken on the excursion or participating in the incursion
 - specify how the identified risks will be managed and minimised
 - ensure Working with Children Checks are conducted for all adults visiting the service on incursions
 - ensure the visiting group/performance is covered by insurance
 - consider the proposed route and destination for the excursion and
 - identify any water hazards
 - reflect on any risks associated with water-based activities
 - consider the transport to and from the proposed destination for the excursion
 - consider the duration of the transportation
 - consider any requirements for seatbelts or safety restraints under a law for our **state/territory** jurisdiction



- the process for entering and exiting the education and care service premises and the pick-up location or destination (as required)
- procedures for embarking and disembarking the means of transport, including how each child is to be accounted for on embarking and disembarking
- consider the ratio of adults to children involved in the excursion
- consider the risks posed by the excursion/incursion, the number of educators or other responsible adults required to provide supervision, and whether any adults with specialised skills are required to ensure children's safety (eg: lifesaving skills)
- consider the planned activities
- determine the duration of the excursion
- consider items that should be taken on the excursion (mobile phone, emergency contacts, first aid kit, medical plans, etc.).
- consider strategies to ensure supervision is consistent at all times during the excursion- transitions, toileting, departure from the service and conclusion of the excursion

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.

Parent Authorisation

The 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 authorisation form must state:
 - 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



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- 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
- if the excursion is a regular outing, the written authorisation is only required to be obtained once in a 12-month period.
- parental authorisation may be required for incursions if identified in the risk assessment or if a cost is required
- authorisations must be kept securely in the child's enrolment records

Staffing Arrangements

The 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 adequate supervision may include:
 - 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
- educators are aware of their responsibility to provide supervision to other responsible adults or volunteers assisting on the excursion
- educators are aware the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency



- at least one educator or the nominated supervisor must hold current First Aid qualification, approved emergency Asthma management and approved anaphylaxis management training

Parent and Volunteer Participation

The 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 is not permitted
- are aware of need to wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

NOTE: all educators/volunteers participating in an excursion will wear a Hi Vis vest

Items to be taken on an Excursion

The 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 attendance record

Transportation for 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.



The *means of transport* may mean:

Walking

- Educators must ensure children and adults use the safest footpaths and safe crossings where possible, such as pedestrian crossings and traffic lights
- Educators will ensure all children and adults obey road rules
- Educators will ensure children follow the 'stop, look, listen and think' process when walking near roads
- Educators will remain vigilant that no child runs ahead or lags behind the group

Bus

- The Nominated Supervisor must ensure that the seating capacity as displayed on the compliance registration is not exceeded.
- All children must sit on seats, preferably with, or close to an adult.
- Any requirements for seat belts or safety restraints under law must be followed depending on the vehicle used. If the bus has seat belts, they must be worn at all times.

Insurance

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor must review the insurance policy prior to the excursion/incursion to ensure liability is protected by the Service. A copy of the insurance policy should be kept within the service's vehicle (if applicable) at all times.

Check for Children's Safety

Educators will ensure:

- children's attendance records are taken on excursions
- all children are accounted for when embarking/disembarking the 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 should 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
- where possible, educators hold children's hands to supervise them walking into the Service premises
- 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

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 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, educator 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

Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. (2009) *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*.

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

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

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2018). (Amended 2020).

Kids and Traffic Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program (NSW)

NSW Government Centre for Road Safety. (2017):

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/childcarseats/index.html>

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Road Transport (Safety & Traffic Management) Act 1999.



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REVIEW

| POLICY REVIEWED | MAY 2022 | NEXT REVIEW DATE | MAY 2023 |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----------|
| MODIFICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reviewed for currency • additional information related to incursions • additional inclusion for checking for children's safety • lost child procedure added • ensuring adequate supervision added • Links checked and additional resource added | | |
| POLICY REVIEWED | PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS | NEXT REVIEW DATE | |
| AUGUST 2020 | amendments to policy to reflect new regulations for risk assessments for excursions and written authorisations for parents (effective 1 October 2020) new definition added for 'regular outing' | MAY 2021 | |
| MAY 2020 | additional regulations added additional sections added: considerations/staffing arrangements /items to take on an excursion/parent and volunteer information /walking sources edited and checked for currency minor editing and formatting | MAY 2021 | |
| MAY 2019 | Additional information added to points. Points added (Highlighted) Section added and referenced: National Child Restraint Laws for Vehicles Sources/references corrected, updated, and alphabetised 'Related policies' alphabetised | MAY 2020 | |
| MAY 2018 | Minor changes made to include 'Incursions' as the same process of risk assessment would apply | MAY 2019 | |
| OCTOBER 2017 | Updated the references to comply with revised National Quality Standard | MAY 2018 | |
| MAY 2017 | Minor terminology changes made | MAY 2018 | |