

# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE POLICY

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place for the delivery of children to, and collection from, service premises and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies are followed. (ACECQA 2021).

Arrival and departure times are planned to promote a smooth transition between home and our Service. The opportunity to build secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships between children and families is promoted during arrival and departure times where educators have the opportunity to engage in conversations with families and support each child's well-being.

To ensure the health and safety of children at our Service our *Arrival and Departure Policy* is strictly adhered to, allowing only nominated authorised persons to collect children at any time throughout the day. The daily sign in and out register is not only a legally required document to record children's attendance as per National Law and Regulations but also used as a record of the children on the premises should an emergency evacuation be required to be implemented.

## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
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 Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
84	Awareness of child protection law

86	Notification to parents of incidents, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
102	Authorisations for excursions
102C	Conduct of risk assessment for transporting children by education and care service
102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
123	Educator to child ratios- centre-based services
157	Access for parents
158	Children's attendance record 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	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
173	Prescribed information to be displayed
176	Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority
177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider
S162 (A)	Persons in day-to-day charge and nominated supervisors to have child protection training
S165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
S167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm or hazard
S170	Offence relating to unauthorised persons on education and care service premises

## RELATED POLICIES

Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy Administration of Medication Policy Child Protection Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Control of Infectious Diseases Policy Coronavirus (COVID-19) Management Policy Emergency Evacuation Policy Enrolment Policy	Handwashing Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Orientation of New Families Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Safe Transportation Policy Sick Children Policy Termination of Enrolment Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## PURPOSE

We aim to ensure the protection and safety of all children, staff members, and families accessing the Service. Educators and staff will only release children to an authorised person as named by the parent/guardian on the individual child's enrolment form.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Guidelines for delivery and collection of children are put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each individual child.

As part of our Risk Management process, our Service *may* introduce explicit control measures to minimise the risk of spreading infectious diseases/viruses such as coronavirus (COVID-19). Our risk assessment may result in changes to our *Arrival and Departure Policy* and are based on mitigating risks following the recommendations made by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), Safe Work Australia and the Department of Health. Control measures and changes to policies are reviewed in consultation with staff members and communicated clearly to parents, families and visitors.

### **The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will ensure:**

- adequate supervision is provided when children arrive and depart the service premises
- relevant educator to child ratios are adhered to at all times
- accurate attendance records are kept
- children only leave the education and care premises in the care of a parent /guardian or authorised person or in accordance with written authorisation as per Regulation 99

## Arrival at Service

Our Service has an obligation to ensure the health and safety of employees, children and visitors in our workplace, so far as reasonably practicable. Our Service has implemented the following measures:

- parents and visitors are currently NOT permitted to enter our Service unless this is prearranged with the Approved Provider/Nominate Supervisor (collection of a sick child, interview for enrolment)
- a designated area for drop off/ pick up will be clearly indicated
- Each safety is our priority. We have a security system which is contactless and has facial recognition software.
- children will be welcomed outside our Service by an educator and a non-contact device used to sign their child into the Service.
- the device will be disinfected between use
- all children need to be signed in by an authorised person. Note: the signing in of a child is verification of the accuracy of the attendance record. Information required on the register includes the child's name, the date and time they arrive and the signature of the person dropping off the child
- the parent/authorised nominee must also advise staff who will be collecting the child/children
- families will be reminded to sign their child/children into the Service and will be encouraged to do so immediately upon arrival to avoid forgetting
- should families forget to sign their child/children in, National Regulations require the Nominated Supervisor or educator to sign the child in
- sign in sheets/attendance records are to be used as a record in the case of an emergency to account for all children present at the Service
- children are to be sighted by an educator before the parent or person responsible for the child leaves. This ensures that the educator is aware that the child has arrived and is in the building
- a child's medication needs, or any other important or relevant information should be passed on to one of the child's educators by the person delivering the child
- the educator will check that the family has completed an *Administration of Medication Record* and store the medication appropriately, away from children's reach
- in order for children to feel secure and safe, it is important that children and families are greeted upon arrival by a member of staff and have the chance to say goodbye to the person dropping them off. Saying goodbye helps to build trust, while parents/guardians leaving without saying goodbye could cause the child to think they have been left behind.

## Departure from the Service

- Children may only leave the Service premises if the child leaves:

### Late Collection of Children:

- instruction to parents; *“Please remember that our educators have families to go home to and their own children to collect by a designated time. If you are late to collect your child two educators have to stay behind and therefore both have to be paid overtime. To cover this, a late fee of \$15 per 15 minutes or part thereof will be charged (e.g., if you are 5 minutes late you will be charged for a 15-minute block. If you are 20 minutes late you will be charged for two 15-minute blocks, etc.)”*.
- if parents/guardians know that they are going to be late, they must notify the Service. If possible, they should make arrangements for someone else to collect their child.
- if they have not arrived by 6:30pm the service will attempt to contact them via phone. If parents/authorised persons are unable to be contacted the Nominated Supervisor will call alternative contacts as listed on the enrolment form to organise collection of the child.
- due to licensing and insurance purposes, if by 6:30pm neither the parent or any of the authorised nominee are available or contactable, the Service may need to contact the police and other relevant authorities