

Providing a Safe Environment Policy and Procedure

Title:	Providing a Safe Environment Policy and Procedure		
Last Reviewed:	October 2015	Next review due:	September 2018
NQF Reference:	National Law sections 3, 167, 171 National Regulations 77, 78, 81 - 88, 97, 99, 100, 103, 168 NQS 2.1.1; 2.2; 2.2.1; 3.1; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.2; 3.2.1; 3.2., 4.1.2		

Policy

Blackmans Bay Childrens Services will at all times ensure, as far as practicable, a safe environment is provided for children being educated and cared for by the service.

Providing a safe environment for children requires a holistic approach - encompassing a child's physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

Procedure

Every child has the right to be safe. A secure and predictable environment supports a child's sense of safety, security and wellbeing. The maintenance and cleanliness of the physical environment, including buildings, furniture and equipment impacts directly on the safety of children and others attending the service.

Blackmans Bay Childrens Services will implement appropriate safety precautions to ensure that as many unintentional injuries as possible are prevented (*THREE - Guide to the National Quality Standard*, page 92). In implementing the five outcomes of the National Quality Framework, educators will provide children with a holistic, safe and secure environment.

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of well being
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

In providing a safe environment the service will:

- Maintain and adapt the physical environment of the service, including facilities, to support safe and equitable access and participation by all children who attend the service.
- The environment and experiences offered will be arranged to avoid overcrowding and support all children to engage positively with their environment. The environment will be a welcoming space that reflects and enriches the lives and identities of the children and families participating in the setting, in response to their interests and needs (*Framework for School Age Care*, page 15).
- Implement hazard checklists and risk assessments to monitor the environment and the maintenance of buildings and equipment.
- Support staff to develop an awareness of, and be able to identify the difference between, a hazard and a risk within the education and care environment. (A **hazard** is something a child does not see; whereas a **risk** is a challenge a child can see and chooses to undertake or not. Eliminating risks may lead to a child's inability to assess danger).
- Where required by law, ensure those who come into contact with children hold a valid safety screening clearance or current Working with Children Check. In addition to this, the service will exclude, to the best of its ability, any *inappropriate*

persons (as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law* section 171) from the education and care service premises.

- Be free at all times from the use of tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol. All persons involved with the education and care of children at the service must not be affected by or consume alcohol or drugs (including prescription medication) that would impair their capacity to supervise or provide education and care to children at the service.
- Only permit a child to leave the service:
 - Where they are given into the care of:
 - A parent; or
 - An authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or
 - A person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the service; or
 - With written permission of the child's parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or
 - On an excursion with written permission of the child's parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or
 - As they require medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment or another emergency.
- Provide a safe, age appropriate environment that caters to the individual needs of each child, including their need for sleep or rest. Where applicable, ensure equipment provided meets relevant Australian Standards (i.e. cots; highchairs).
- Implement hygienic practices in-line with the service's relevant policies and procedures.
- Manage and practice incidents and emergencies in line with relevant policies and procedures.
- Implement appropriate supervision practices, including the maintenance of ratios, in line with the service's Supervision Policy.
- Ensure staffing arrangements support a safe and predictable environment for children; to support children to be and feel physically and emotionally safe within the environment (also refer to the service's Staffing Policy and Procedure).

In addition, the implementation of the following policies and procedures supports the provision of a safe environment for children and others attending the service:

- Administration of First Aid Policy and Procedure
- Child Protection Policy and Procedure
- Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Procedure
- Emergency and Evacuation Policy and Procedure
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and Procedure
- Infectious Disease Policy and Procedure
- Medical Conditions Policy and Procedure
- Nutrition Policy and Procedure
- Sleep and Rest
- Staffing Policy and Procedure
- Sun Protection Policy and Procedure
- Supervision Policy and Procedure
- Water Safety Policy and Procedure

Providing a Safe Environment Policy and Procedure

Links to other policies or documents

- Administration of First Aid Policy and Procedure
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- Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Procedure
- Emergency and Evacuation Policy and Procedure
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Sources

- *Education and Care Services National Law*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations*