

Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy



Policy Relevant to:	Management, Educators, Team members, families
Last Reviewed:	July 2025
Next Review:	July 2027
ECS National Law:	S162A, S165, S166, S167,
ECS National Regulations:	r82, r83, r84, r97, r99, r102, r103, r104, r105, r106, r109, r115, r122, r123, r136, r145, r149, r155, r167, r168, r170, r171, r175, r358
NQS:	2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 5.1.1

Rational

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCR) outline that children and young people have a right to be safe and cared for, no matter where they are or who they are with. Children have the right to be protected from violence, abuse or neglect. When working with children and young people, it is important to understand children's rights and needs.

Adventure Patch are advocates for children and has a strong commitment to child safety and establishing and maintaining a child safe environment. Children's safety and well-being are paramount at Adventure Patch. Adventure Patch embeds the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and promotes a culture of safety and wellbeing to minimise the risk of child abuse or harm to children whilst promoting children's sense of security and belonging.

Purpose

Adventure Patch has a legal and ethical responsibility to provide a safe and friendly environment where all children and young people are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Children's and young people's safety and wellbeing is paramount, and we aim to take all practical steps to protect children and young people from harm or risk of harm, ensuring a healthy and safe environment. Adventure Patch provides children and staff with an environment free from the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

Implementation

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place for providing a child-safe environment and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed. (Reg168, Reg170). The National Law requires management to ensure all children being educated and cared for are adequately supervised and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

Our focus is to build a child-safe environment, which is reflected in our services policies and procedures and understood and practiced by all educators, team members, volunteers and students.

Adventure Patch's commitment to Safety of Children and Young People

Adventure Patch is committed to being a child safe organisation and endorses the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, placing the protection of children as a priority of our responsibilities and obligations. The child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide guidance on policies, procedures, strategies and actions to ensure children's safety.

Adventure Patch has zero tolerance for child abuse, and we are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children. We promote diversity and tolerance and aim to form equitable and positive relationships with children. We ensure children participate in decisions affecting them and listen to and respect their suggestions and ideas. We respond to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm by reporting to the relevant authorities.

We are dedicated to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability. Adventure Patch will not tolerate bullying or harassment. Our priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of children and encourage positive relationships.

Adventure Patch has adopted aspects of the [National Model Code and Guidelines](#) and implement child safe practices regarding the use of electronic devices for taking images or video of children whilst providing education and care.

Communication

We aim to build and maintain positive and respectful relationships with children, families and educators of our services and prioritise a child safe environment. We communicate regularly and clearly with all stakeholders and ensure our policies and procedures are available to educators, team members, volunteers, families and children and young people (Reg. 170). Feedback and evaluation of our policies and procedures is welcomed through surveys, feedback or discussions with management.

Our Procedures

Our *Providing a Child Safe Environment Procedure* provides further information for our team members and educators in regards to National Principles:

- Code of Conduct
- Participation of Families, Children and Young People
- Recruitment
- Police Checks and Working with Vulnerable People Checks
- Child Protection – reportable guidelines
- Reporting and Responding to General Complaints
- Physical Environment – Supervision and Safety Checklists
- Risk Assessments and Risk Assessment tools
- Emergency and Evacuation Procedures
- Arrival and Departure Authorisation
- Online Safety

- Storage of Hazardous Substances
- Equipment, Furniture & Maintenance record

Continuous Review

To ensure we maintain a culture of continuous improvement, we will ensure our child safe practices are regularly reviewed, evaluated and improved. We aim to ensure all educators and team members understand and effectively implement our policies and procedures to provide a child safe environment at our services.

We will regularly review and monitor the effectiveness of our Child Safe policies and procedures and invite children, staff members, families and communities to contribute to their development.

Any updates or revisions will be communicated to all stakeholders.

Related Policies

Adventurous Play Policy Behaviour Guidance Policy Child Protection Policy Arrival and Departure of Children Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Orientation Policy Recruitment Policy Safe Transportation of Children Policy Sleep and Rest Policy Emergency and Evacuation Policy Excursion/Incursion Policy	Injury, Incident, Trauma and Illness Policy Interactions with Children Policy Medical Conditions Policy Nutrition Policy Staffing Arrangements Policy Sun Safe Policy Supervision Policy Technology Policy Water Safety Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
---	---

Child Safe Standards Legislation / Resources

The Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework will be a legislatively mandated framework comprised of child safe standards and a reportable conduct scheme. The National Principles will be adapted to the Tasmania context where required. Implementation of this framework will commence for ECE services in January 2024.

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2023). Policy and procedure guidelines. [Providing a Child Safe Environment](#).

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

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

Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (as amended 2014) (Vic)

Commission for children and young people [Being a child safe organisation](#)

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).

The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)

The Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998

The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012

Victoria State Government. Families, Fairness and Housing. Children, youth & families. [Child Protection](#).

Victoria State Government. [The Child Safe Standards. Early Childhood Services](#).

Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)

Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Scott Norris	DCEO	July 2025
POLICY REVIEWED	July 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	July 2027
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General policy maintenancehyperlinks checkedNational Laws and regulations checkedAdded National Model Code and Guidelines for photos/video.		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">policy maintenancehyperlinks checked and repaired as requiredAdded related policies listUpdated policy in relation to Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework		July 2025

Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris