



Professional Standards and Ethical Conduct

Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements

Policy Statement

Tathra Preschool is committed to a code of professional conduct, upholding ethical principles and professional standards that guide decision-making and practice at the preschool. This includes a system of ethical inquiry to provide a basis for reflection on how to relate to and contribute to the education and care community in which we actively participate. Our Preschool will uphold the highest standards in ethical conduct in accordance with the ECA Code of Ethics (2016) The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) The Child Safe standards (2022), The national Quality Framework and the Tathra Preschool philosophy.

Policy Goals

Our Preschool uses these framework codes and conventions as a basis for evaluating professional conduct, and as a reference tool for the thought processes that inform pedagogy, including actions and reactions towards professional conduct, relationships, views, influence and position within communities and society. Ethical conduct guides the behaviour and decisions within the preschool and is underpinned by respect for, and the valuing of children, families, educators and staff, and the extended preschool community.

Strategies: How will it be done?

The professional conduct of our team, in relation to one another, the children and their families, the community, and the Education and Care Services sector is based on the following set of expected standards of professional conduct:

- Administer an approved education and care service in compliance with the National Quality Framework.
- Operate within a family and child centred context.
- Engage in reflective, ethical, and sustainable decision making.

Early Childhood Australia's (ECA) Code of Ethics

Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics (2016) is integral to our Preschool as it guides the ethical principles and professional standards of conduct towards children, families, colleagues, communities, students, employers, educators, and the conduct of research.

The Code of Ethics provides a basis for critical reflection, a guide for professional behaviour, and principles to inform individual and collective decision-making at Tathra Preschool. The ECA *Code of Ethics* reflects current pedagogical research and practice and provides a framework for reflection about the ethical responsibilities of our staff who work with or on behalf of children and families at Tathra Preschool.

At Tathra Preschool we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been nurturing and teaching children on this land for thousands of years. The ECA *Code of Ethics* acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional ways of being and caring for children.

These standards of professional conduct are supported by, and should be read in conjunction with:

- National Quality Framework document suite as made available through the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)
- Tathra Preschool Statement of Philosophy.
- Operational policies and procedures, which provide a framework for accountable and responsible professional practice.

Role and Responsibilities

Approved Provider will:

- Ensure the Preschool operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011 at all times.
- Ensure all Educators and staff are made aware of their obligations through personal discussions, staff meeting activities and opportunities to critically reflect upon ethical practice.

Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure the Preschool operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011 at all times.
- Ensure all educators and staff are made aware of their obligations through personal discussions, staff meeting activities and opportunities to critically reflect upon ethical practice.
- Ensure decision making processes are clear and transparent.
- Ensure there is a copy of the ECA Code of Ethics displayed in a prominent place within the preschool for educators/staff and families to access.
- Ensure that there are times when all educators can participate in staff meetings to discuss and reflect on the practices within the preschool in relation to continual improvement.

Early Childhood Educators and Responsible Persons will:

- Be familiar with the legislation and statutory documents that apply to their role with children, families, and other staff in the Preschool.
- Be familiar with the ECA Code of Ethics and Tathra Preschool philosophy.
- Maintain their knowledge of the broad legislation and conventions that apply to their role with children, families, and their team.
- Demonstrate an ongoing engagement with the principles outlined in The Early Years Learning Frameworks and the ethical requirements in the National Quality Standards.

- Use staff meetings to critically reflect on practices in relation to continuing improvement.
- Engage respectfully and collaboratively within the team.
- Ensure a professional relationship is maintained with all educators while demonstrating integrity, honesty, and mutual respect.
- Recognise and value diversity and knowledge amongst team members.

Families will:

- Respect confidentiality at all times.
- Give feedback in relation to educators' professional conduct to the Approved Provider as necessary.
- Act in a professional manner whenever they are involved in the programs provided by the preschool.
- Communicate to Responsible Person or staff any individual requests regarding staff/educators' code of conduct.
- Families to become familiar with the preschool's policies and procedures to ensure behaviour that aligns with positive role modelling, effective communication and respect.

Monitor, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the preschool will review this Policy every 3 years. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the preschool will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the preschool; a family's ability to utilise the preschool; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Relevant

Legislation

- Education and Care National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care National Regulations: 168 (2)(i)(i)

Related

Guidelines, Standards and Frameworks

- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements – Elements 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.2.2
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics 2016
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Office Of the Children's Guardian <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/resources>
- 2022: Download the [Guide to the Child Safe Standards for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services \(PDF, 7.5MB\)](#)

Sources and References

- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) – www.acecqa.gov.au
- Early Childhood Australia – www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au < Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics 2016
- Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment – www.dese.gov.au
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 2021, Community Early Learning Australia (CELA).

Updated

April 2024

Review Date

2027 or when procedure, practice or legislation changes.