



Supervision Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Policy Statement

Adequate supervision is the consistent and present engagement with children. Children must be adequately supervised at all times that they are being educated and cared for both at Tathra Preschool and on excursions. The meaning of working directly with children is defined by the Education and Care Services National Regulations as,

"A person is working directly with children at a given time if at that time the person— (a) is physically present with the children; and (b) is directly engaged in providing education and care to the children."

Supervision can prevent and reduce accidents through early detection of potential harms and hazards and an awareness of the children, and their activities. Tathra Preschool will prioritise regular assessment of their supervision practices in order to increase educators' awareness of their duty of care and to continuously improve supervision procedures.

Policy Goals

- Ensure Children's safety is a priority.
- Maintain a safe and secure environment where children are free to explore and learn more about their world.
- The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and educators are familiar with regulatory requirements and standards regarding supervision.
- Evaluate supervisory practices and implement plans to increase awareness of the layout, risk management and supervisory choices within the preschool.
- Use Child Safety Standard as a framework for decision making

Strategies; How will it be done?

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that the premises are designed and maintained to facilitate supervision of children at all times while considering the need to maintain the rights and dignity of all children.
- Ensure that the age and supervision requirements for educators are maintained at all times. Any educators who are under eighteen years of age may work at the preschool, provided they do not work alone and are adequately supervised at all times by an educator who is over eighteen years of age.
- Notify the regulatory authority within 24 hours if a child appears to be missing, cannot be accounted for, appears to have been taken or removed from the premises, or has mistakenly been locked in or out of the preschool.
- Ensure that policies and procedures address supervision clearly.
- Ensure that the National Regulations specifications are met in regard to the number of educators required to educate and care for children and the qualifications of these educators.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Plan staffing to ensure continuity of care and adequate supervision at all times when children are being cared for and educated in the preschool and on excursions.
- Ensure that a risk assessment is carried out before an authorisation is sought for an excursion. The risk assessment will consider and identify the number of adults required to ensure continuous adequate supervision throughout the excursion.
- Conduct risk assessments and make professional judgment to determine approaches to supervision. Consideration will be given to the environment, the children, and the context of activities the children participate in.
- Ensure staff and families are familiar with the Child Safety Standards (2022)

Educators will:

- Educators will position themselves effectively for supervising the children's play. Educators will take into consideration the layout of the premises and grounds, any higher risk activities, the presence of any animals, the location of activities and the location of bathroom and nappy change facilities.
- Promote children's agency and participation in genuine decision making.
- Ensure that supervision arrangements support observation and active engagement with children to support their learning.
- Listen carefully to children and note any changes of tone or volume in their voice. Noting these changes can assist in supervising children who may not be in direct vision.
- Evaluate situations to determine the potential risks and benefits for children's health, safety, and wellbeing. Observing children's play and anticipating what may occur next allows educators to assist children as difficulties arise and to intervene when there is a potential danger to children.
- Inform new and relief educators about supervision arrangements and what is required of them in relation to supervising children.
- Regularly review supervision strategies to evaluate their effectiveness and its implementation by educators.
- Seek to ensure that two educators are present, within view, when working with children and when supporting children with toileting/hygiene routines.
- Arrange the preschool environment to maximise the ability of educators to supervise all areas accessible to children with particular focus on gates, the fence line, and doors during arrival and departure times.
- Be aware of the importance of communicating with each other about their location within the environment, as well as individual children who may need closer monitoring.

- Ensure that correct child: educator ratios are maintained throughout the education and care environment. All children will be in sight or hearing of educators at all times. No child will be left alone while eating or at nappy change and toileting times.
- Supervise children during rest periods. Children will be positioned and supervised according to the Safe Sleep & Rest Time policy.
- Ensure that hazardous equipment, machinery, and chemicals are inaccessible to children.
- Ensure that supervision arrangements are respectful and that interactions with children are meaningful. Educators will encourage children's independence while respecting individual abilities and needs.
- Scan the environment while interacting with individuals or small groups. Educators will position themselves to maximise their view of the environment and the children's play.
- Implement consistent supervision strategies and not perform other duties while responsible for the supervision of children.

Children's safety will be the priority of all educators when supervising children.

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.

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 preschool 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Education and Care Services National Regulations: 101(2)(f), 115, 120, 123, 168(2) (h), 176➤ National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.2, 2.2.1		
Guidelines, Standards and Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Download the Guide to the Child Safe Standards for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services (PDF, 7.5MB)➤ Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 165, 167, 169, 174➤ Education and Care Services National Regulations➤ ACECQA's Guide to the National Quality Framework➤ Building Code of Australia		
Sources and References	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ ACECQA's Guide to the National Quality Framework➤ ECA Code of Ethics (2016) Early Childhood Australia www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au➤ Active Supervision: Ensuring Safety and Promoting Learning: www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-04/QA2-ActiveSupervisionEnsuringSafetyAndPromotingLearning_1.pdf➤ 2021, Community Early Learning Australia (CELA).		
Updated	April 2024	Review Date	2027 or when procedure, practice or legislation changes.