

Ballina River Street Children’s Centre

Children’s Belonging’s Policy

This policy clarifies responsibilities for children’s property when brought with them to our Service(BRSCC). We acknowledge that children will bring to the Service or carry with them certain personal belongings.

This policy outlines the types of belongings that children may bring with them on a regular basis and the level of associated responsibility.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
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.

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

PURPOSE

To ensure families and teachers/educators are aware of their responsibility regarding children’s belonging including keeping them safe.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service(BRSCC).

IMPLEMENTATION

It can be distressing for children to misplace their toys from home and can cause conflict between children.

- Children often want to share or show other children or caregivers special things from home, but these treasures may be easily broken or lost. To save the upset and heartache, parents are requested to encourage children to leave their toys at home, unless they are essential to a child's emotional wellbeing and/or sense of belonging. We have numerous stimulating and challenging toys and resources for all children to play with and are in numerous quantities, catering to their interests.
- During exceptional program circumstances, the children may (on occasion) be able to bring with them personal belongings, this may include school holiday photos or souvenirs, interesting items for news etc. News is a great way to encourage children to talk during group time about their special toy or personal belonging. This practice encourages children's social development, enables children to vocalise thoughts, fears and feelings, broaden the cultural and social backgrounds of all children involved in group time activities, assist in the development of language skills and provide an opportunity for development of special interests for the group.
- We will provide appropriate storage for lost property that will be available to children and families at all times.
- Any grievances or concerns related to lost damaged or stolen property of the children will be managed in accordance with the grievance and complaints procedure.
- Where children wish to bring in DVD/Blu-ray, music or electronic games, these should be discussed with management before bring to our service(BRSCC).
- We will take as much care as possible in ensuring that personal belongings are returned to the family.
- We will encourage children who bring special belongings into care to place them in a special "toys from home" box to reduce the prospect of them becoming lost or broken.
- We will enforce a non-violent toy policy in which we seek family assistance in preventing their children to bring in violent toys from home. Any such toys will be removed from the child immediately and placed in the Director's office for parental collection at the end of the day
- We discourage the wearing of dress up clothes to the Service. For example: those incorporating capes, guns, holsters, knives or swords. Such clothing encourages violent play and may present a danger to the child and others within our child care environment
- The staff and educators will take as much care as possible in ensuring that clothing; toys, books and puzzles etc. are returned to their correct family. The labelling of all items can help us achieve this. However, we must make it clear that the Service(BRSCC) is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items. If families choose to leave belongings in the Service(BRSCC) during the day it is completely at the family's own risk
- We will actively encourage children to care for their belongings by:
 - Reminding children appropriately when belongings need to be placed in storage e.g. Lunch box, hat, drink bottle and shoes into bag or locker.
 - Providing suitable storage to keep belongings safe
 - Collaborate with families any item of personal belonging which is either special, expensive or at risk of being damaged to be kept in a secured and safe position to be shown for news time only
- We will inform the family through relevant newsletters and publications such as the family handbook of appropriate personal belongings required at the Service(BRSCC).

Families will

- Be responsible for providing the child with appropriate belongings and property required for active participation in the Service(BRSCC). This property may include (but is not limited to):

- Enclosed footwear
- Weather appropriate clothing – Spare clothes

- Wide brim hat (BRSCC will provide each child with a bucket hat to wear at preschool, these hats will be labelled with the child’s name and go home to be washed).
- Suitable School bag (backpack)
- Appropriate food and lunch box (healthy food- NO NUTS or products that contain nuts)
- Ensure all personal property and belongings will be clearly named or labelled.

Comfort Toys – children who attend Occasional Child Care and younger children in preschool

We recommend children bring a security blankets/items that soothes them. This may include dummy, bottle, soft toy, books or blanket etc.

These items will be given to children at sleep times or when children require extra comfort.

Source

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014). • Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015, • ECA Code of Ethics. • Guide to the National Quality Standard. • Revised National Quality Standards • Childcare Centre desktop- www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
	Policy format updated	
December 2017	Updated the references to comply with revised National Quality Standard	March 2018