

Providing a Child Safe Environment

Introduction

Ballina River Street Children's Centre recognises the importance of providing a safe environment for all children at our service. All children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health and safety.

Goals - What are we going to do?

The education and care setting will:

- Ensure that children are adequately supervised at all times;
- Organise rooms and environments to minimise risks to children;
- Monitor and minimise hazards and safety risks in the environment;
- Implement our Child Protection and our Incidents, Injury, Trauma, Illness Policies; and
- -Take every reasonable precaution to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

Strategies - How will it be done?

Supervision

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that sufficient numbers of educators are employed to ensure adequate supervision of children at all times; and
- Adopt policies and procedures to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Draw up rosters to ensure that adequate numbers of educators are on duty to meet ratio and qualification requirements and to ensure adequate supervision of children at all times;
- Engage casual staff as appropriate;
- Ensure educators/staff are aware of the need for adequate supervision of children at all times. This may include the development of supervision plans for outdoor or indoor areas; and
- Adopt policies designed to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury are implemented and that all staff are aware of these policies and procedures.

Educators will:

- Adequately supervise children within their room/group at all times; and
- Inform the Nominated Supervisor whenever supervision is inadequate within their room to ensure the health and safety of all children.

Organisation of Rooms and Environments

The Approved Provider will:

- Make sufficient allowance within budgets to allow for the replacement of worn and damaged equipment and resources which may provide safety risk for children; and
- Make sufficient allowance within budgets to allow the adequate maintenance of all indoor and outdoor environments.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Organise rooms and groupings to enable adequate supervision of children and so to minimise the risk to children; and
- Organise repairs and maintenance to equipment and environments in a timely manner.

Educators and staff will:

- Organise indoor and outdoor spaces to ensure risks to the health and safety are minimised; and
- Inform the Nominated Supervisor of repairs and maintenance needed within the service to ensure the health and safety of children.

Risk Assessment

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Conduct a risk assessment of the service environment to determine any risks to children's health and safety; NS will communicate with educator's re- safety checklists have been completed throughout the service each day and access environment, checking equipment, all hazards will be:
- Analyse and evaluate the risks associated with identified hazards;
- Determine appropriate ways to eliminate or control identified hazards; and
- Review risk assessments after any serious incident report is made to the Department of Education and Communities.

Educators and staff will:

- Report any risks or hazards within the service to the Nominated Supervisor as soon as possible. Analyse and evaluate the risks associated with identified hazards;
- Complete the daily checklists for inside the Centre & outdoors environments, checking for any potential hazards i.e. spiders or slippery areas
- Remove all hazards such as broken equipment.
- Record all maintenance in the Maintenance folder

Child Protection

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and Educators and Staff will comply with the requirements of the service's child protection policy to ensure the minimisation of children's risk to harm.

Evaluation

Children are healthy and safe at our service and the number of serious health and safety incidents is reduced over time.

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Sources

- Community Childcare Cooperative sample policies – www.ccccnsw.org.au