

Ballina River Street Children's Centre

Road Safety Policy

Traffic related injuries remain one of the leading, preventable causes of death and serious injury for young children. Driveways, car parks, unfenced yards; private roads and farms are particular danger areas.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
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, practised and implemented.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursions
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
102	Authorisation for excursions

PURPOSE

Our Service(BRSCC) will ensure best practice guidelines are implemented with children, families and Teachers/Educators of the Service(BRSCC), to ensure children are kept safe whilst travelling as pedestrians, cyclist and passengers in vehicles. As Teachers/Educators, we encourage children and families to participate in road safety education to help them become safe and responsible road operators.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, teachers/educators, staff, management and visitors of the Service(BRSCC).

IMPLEMENTATION

To comply with National regulations and law, Early Childhood Services are required to protect children from harm and hazards likely to cause injury. To ensure compliance, management and teachers/educators of the Service(BRSCC) will ensure best practice is adhered to, maintaining children's health and safety.

Management will ensure:

- Teachers/Educators only allow a child to participate in an excursion with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian, in accordance with National Regulations. (Refer to Excursion policy)
- A written risk assessment is undertaken prior to excursions, including the safest route for travel
- Road safety education is provided within the program for children and families
- Teachers/Educators have access to regular professional development and training in road safety, complying with national regulations and standards.
- There are visible signs for families to read about keeping children safe. For example leaving children in the car
- Parents and guardians are provided with specific road safety information, including parking safely, locking car, local area speed limits etc.
- Parents are provided with general road safety information about transporting children to and from the Service(BRSCC), including safely exiting the gates, driveway safety, child restraints and role modeling safe road use.
- Parents have a clear understanding about our policies in order to keep children safe.
- The Educational Leader educates staff about the importance of road safety

A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person will ensure:

- Children participate in excursions only if they have parent permission
- A risk assessment is completed prior to excursions to ensure the safest route and minimise or manage any potential risks
- Children are adequately supervised at all times
- They remain up to date with roads and traffic professional development
- They have a clear understanding and comprehension of national regulations and standards in regards to keeping children safe
- Road safety is embedded into the program, supporting children's understanding and knowledge
- They discuss with families' appropriate road safety expectations, including leaving children in the car, intoxication whilst driving etc.

Teachers/Educators will:

- Communicate excursion requirements with the Nominated Supervisor and Management to ensure they have a clear understanding about expectations
- Have a comprehensive understanding of the National Regulations and Standards in regards to keeping children safe.
- Educate children about the importance of road safety, obeying the rules, listening to families, holding hands, pedestrian safety, car safety etc.
- Embed road safety guidelines into the program for children to gain a clear understanding and gain the knowledge required to keep safe
- Set up helmets when bikes and scooters are made available to children
- Discuss road safety expectations and guidelines with families
- Follow appropriate procedures in the event of a vehicle accident including children, educators or families, informing management.
- Adhere to their duty of care to keep children safe

Important: parents will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an accident at the Service or while under Service care. Also, details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

Important: if the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours.

Parents are responsible for:

- Reading, signing and dating permission forms prior to excursions to confirm they agree to the excursion conditions.
- Ensuring their child/children travels in an appropriate and approved restraint, suitable for their age and weight when arriving and departing the Service
- Being aware of safety locations and general road safety requirements when arriving and departing from the Service
- Never leaving a child/children and/or animal in the car alone at any time
- Holding children’s hands when arriving and departing from the gates within the Service(BRSCC)
- Being aware of the Service policy relating to safe transportation of children to and from the service.

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Roads and Traffic Authority Website
- NCAC Newsletter
- National Law
- Child Protection Act
- Mandatory Reporting Guide
- Revised National Quality Standards
- Childcare Centre Desktop Policies – www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au

Review

Policy Date	Modifications	Review Date
December 2017	New Policy Created Updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes. Changes made to policy format and updated references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard	December 2018