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PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines to ensure:

- the adequate supervision of all enrolled children is maintained at all times.
- the provision of a safe and secure environment for all children at Whittlesea Family Day Care.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Whittlesea Family Day Care is committed to:

- provide appropriate supervision for all enrolled children in all aspects of the service's program that is reflective of the children's needs, abilities, age and circumstances
- ensuring all children are directly and actively supervised by educators contracted by Whittlesea Family Day Care
- maintaining a duty of care (*refer to Definitions*) to all children at Whittlesea Family Day Care
- ensuring there is an understanding of the shared legal responsibility and accountability between, and a commitment by, all persons to implement the procedures and practices outlined in this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, educators, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Whittlesea Family Day Care including during offsite excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Educators	Parents/guardians
Complying with the legislated educator-to-child ratios at all times (<i>National Law: Sections 169</i>) (<i>Regulations 123</i>)	R	R	✓	
Counting only those educators who are working directly with children at the service in the educator-to-child ratios (<i>Regulation 122</i>)	R	R	✓	
Keeping a record of educators working directly with children (<i>Regulation 151</i>)	R	✓		

Ensuring any educator or person under the age of 18 is not left to supervise children on their own (<i>Regulation 120</i>)	R	√	√	
Ensuring an unauthorised person is under the direct supervision of an educator whilst at the service (<i>National Law: Section 170 (2)</i>)	R	R	√	
Ensuring that children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) by being in sight and/or hearing of an educator at all times; including during eating, toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines (<i>National Law: Section 165 (1), (2)</i>)	R	R	√	
<p>Educators cannot undertake any household activities or personal duties, which may inhibit visual and auditory supervision simultaneously or put children's safety at risk i.e. taking a shower and/or ironing. Social and personal commitments will be kept to a minimum. If a social or personal commitment is unavoidable and absolutely necessary, then the Educators will ensure this activity includes the children and encourages a positive learning experience. Educators must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the children in care alone by leaving the premises at any time. • Leave the children in care with an unauthorised person at any time. • Leave the children in care alone in a car or pusher at any time. 			√	
Considering the design and arrangement of the service environment to support active supervision (<i>Regulation 115</i>). This may be supported by a supervision plan	R	√	√	
Managing potential risk of abuse or harm to each child, including fulfilling duty of care (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) and legal obligations to protect children and prevent any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm (<i>refer to Child Safe Environment Policy</i>)	R	R	R	
Identifying high-risk activities, including excursions (<i>refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy, Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy and Water Safety Policy</i>), through a risk management process, and implementing strategies to improve children's safety e.g. Considering increasing adult-to-child ratios in line with the identified risks (<i>Regulation 100, 101, 102B, 102C</i>)	R	R	√	
Providing safe spaces for children, which allow for adequate supervision, and which include safe fall zones, good traffic flow, maintenance of buildings and equipment, and minimising trip hazards	R	√	√	
<p>Notifying the Regulatory Authority (DE) within 24 hours of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a serious incident (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) occurring at the service, including when a child appears to be missing or cannot be accounted for (<i>National Law: Section 174(2)(a)</i>), (<i>Regulations 176(2)(a)(ii)</i>) • a complaint alleging that the health, safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised or that the law has been breached (<i>National Law: Section 174(2)(b)</i>), (<i>Regulations 175(2)(c), 176(2)(b)</i>) 	R	√		√

Educators must immediately notify the FDC Coordination Unit of a missing child and follow the procedures in this <i>policy (refer to procedures)</i>			R	
Notifying parents/guardians of a serious incident (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) involving their child as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after the occurrence (<i>Regulation 86, 87 (3)(e)</i>)	R	✓	✓	
Evaluating supervision procedures regularly	R	✓	✓	
Complying with the service's <i>Excursions and Service Events, Road Safety and Safe Transport and Water Safety Policy</i>	R	R	✓	✓
Identifying the potential for the risks of abuse or harm to each child, including fulfilling duty of care (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) and legal obligations to protect children and prevent any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm	R	R	R	
Providing support to educators when children with challenging behaviours or additional needs are involved	✓	✓		
Ensuring that all children are accounted for, including by referring to attendance records (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) at various times throughout the day, e.g. during indoor/outdoor programs		✓	✓	
Adjusting supervision strategies to suit the home environment, educator skills, and age mix, dynamics and size of the group of children being supervised and the activities being undertaken	R	R	✓	
Maintaining a duty of care to children at all times (including when the child is on the premises but not signed into or signed out of the care of the service and the parent/guardian or person delivering or collecting the child is responsible for supervising that child)		R	R	R
Balancing supervision requirements with children's needs for privacy and independence		✓	✓	
Adhering to the <i>Child Safe Environment Policy</i>	R	R	R	R
Ensuring doors and gates are closed at all times to prevent children from leaving the service unaccompanied or from accessing unsupervised/unsafe areas of the home	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deciding when to interrupt and redirect children's play to ensure safety at all times		✓	✓	
Identifying opportunities to support and extend children's learning while also recognising their need to play without adult intervention		✓	✓	
Conducting daily safety checks of the environment to assess safety and to remove hazards		✓	✓	
Supervising/being aware of children's daily arrival and departure from the service and being aware of the person who has authority to collect the child (<i>refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy</i>)		✓	✓	✓
Supervising their own child/ren before signing them into the program and after they have signed them out of the program				✓

Enabling educators to supervise children at all times e.g. by making arrangements to speak with educators at a mutually suitable time				√
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PROCEDURES

MISSING CHILD

If an Educator suspects a child is missing they must immediately check the specific areas of the FDC premises, both inside and outside.

- If the child is not found, the Educator must immediately contact the FDC Coordination Unit.
- The FDC Coordination Unit/Educator will contact the parents/guardians and then call the Police and DE if the child is not located within 10 minutes of the initial report.
- If the Coordination Unit cannot be reached, the Educator must contact the Police and DE if the child is not located within 10 minutes of the initial report.
- The incident must be recorded by the Educator and the FDC Coordination Unit, and then retained on the child's and the Educator's file.
- FDC Coordination Unit must complete an incident recording form and submit to DE under a notifiable incident.
- If necessary, critical incident de-briefing will be offered to the Educator and support will be provided to the family.
- A FDC Coordination Unit team member can be contacted after hours on 0428 791 075 or 0417 266 572. Leave an urgent message for a FDC Coordination Unit to return your call and state the reason why.
- DE will be notified by phone and by completing the appropriate forms

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION



BACKGROUND

Supervision is essential in ensuring that children's safety is protected in the service environment. Children have a right to be protected from potential hazards and dangers posed by products, plants, objects, animals and people in the immediate and wider environment.

Supervision is an integral part of the care and education of children and requires educators to make ongoing assessments of the child and the activities in which they are engaged; utilising a range of skills such as positioning and peripheral vision. Active supervision assists in the development of positive relationships between educators, children and their families, and informs ongoing assessment and future planning. Adequate supervision (*refer to Definitions*) requires teamwork and good communication between educators.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Safe Standards, Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
- Worker Screening Act 2020
- Worker Screening Regulations 2021 (Vic)



The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au

DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms please refer to the definitions file stored at the end of the policy document.



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Kidsafe: www.kidsafe.com.au
- The Royal Children's Hospital Community Information team (formerly Safety Centre) provides information on safety promotion and injury prevention: www.rch.org.au.
- WorkSafe Victoria: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au
- Guide to the National Quality Framework (ACECQA): <http://acecqa.gov.au/>
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (ACECQA): <http://acecqa.gov.au/>

RELATED POLICIES

- Administration of First Aid
- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- Compliments and Complaints
- Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Excursions and Service Events
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Interactions with Children
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Relaxation and Sleep
- Road Safety and Safe Transport
- Tobacco Alcohol and other Drugs
- Water Safety

EVALUATION



In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- record and monitor complaints and incidents in relation to the supervision of children and amend the policy and procedures as required
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk ([Regulation 172 \(2\)](#)).



ATTACHMENTS

- NIL



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Whittlesea Family Day Care on 30 October 2024

REVIEW DATE: 30 October 2025