

SAFE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place in relation to the safe transportation of children (regulation 168) and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed (regulation 170). [ACECQA, 2021].

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Service provides education and care for children before school, after school and during school holidays. For children to access our Service, we provide transportation between our Service location and primary schools and other locations during school holidays whilst participating on excursions.

Compliance with the Education and Care National Law and Regulations is mandatory to ensure the safety of children at all times and new provisions and amendments to these regulations are reflected in our procedures and policy for transportation and the safe handover of children.

We acknowledge our ensuring duty of care obligations by adhering to relevant legislation providing adequate supervision of children at all times, maintaining correct educator to child ratios, maintaining accurate attendance records and providing appropriate child restraints for children under our care.

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.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND LAW	
4 (1)	Definition regular transportation
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
89	First Aid Kits
98	Telephone or other communication equipment
99	Children leaving the education and care service premises

100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
101	Conduct a risk assessment for excursion
102A	Transportation of children other than as part of an excursion
102B	Transport risk assessment must be conducted before service transports child
102C	Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service
102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
123	Educator to child ratios
136	First aid qualifications
158	Children's attendance record to be kept by approved provider
161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
168(2)(ga)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures (transportation)
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
183	Storage of records and other documents
S51(4A)	The approved provider must ensure that the number of children educated and cared for by the service at any one time does not exceed the maximum number of children specified in the service approval
s165	Failure to adequately supervise children
s167	Failure to take reasonable precautions to protect children from harm and hazards

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy	Emergency Evacuation Policy
Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy	Enrolment Policy
Behaviour Guidance Policy	Excursion Policy
Child Protection Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
Child Safe Environment Policy	Record Keeping and Retention Policy
	Responsible Persons Policy
	Work Health and Safety Policy

PURPOSE

We aim to ensure that all children being educated and cared for by our OSHC Service are adequately supervised at all times. This includes ensuring educator to child ratios are met whenever and wherever our service is operating including providing transportation as part of our OSHC Service activity.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management the approved provider, nominated supervisor, students and visitors of the OSHC Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

The safety of children enrolled at the OSHC Service is paramount. Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury. Appropriate safety measures have been implemented through our comprehensive risk assessment process to ensure supervision is adequate at all times including transporting children before and after school to our Service and during school holidays when children may be participating in excursions. Educator to child ratios are adhered to in addition to ensuring the maximum numbers on the service approval are not breached at any time. Adequate supervision is therefore not static as it is dependent upon a range of considerations documented in risk assessments. Specific risk assessments and procedures for excursions during school holidays are included in our *OSHC Excursion Policy*.

DEFINITIONS (effective 1 October 2020)

Regular outing: in relation to an education and care service, means a walk, drive or trip to and from a destination

- (a) that the service visits regularly as part of its educational program; and
- (b) where the circumstances relevant to the risk assessment are *substantially* the same on each outing

Regular transportation: in relation to an education and care service, means the transportation by the service or arranged by the service (other than as part of an excursion) of a child being educated and cared for by the service, where the circumstances relevant to a risk assessment are *substantially* the same for each occasion on which the child is transported.

Written authorisation: authorisation given by a parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record as having authority to authorise the child being transported by the service or on transportation arranged by the service. If the transportation is regular transportation, the authorisation is only required

to be obtained once in a 12-month period. The authorisation must state:

- a) the child's name; and
- b) the reason the child is to be transported; and
- c) if the authorisation is for a regular outing, a description of when the child is to be taken on the regular outings; and
- d) if the authorisation is **not** for a regular transportation, the date the child is to be transported; and
- e) a description of the proposed pick-up location and destination; and
- f) the means of transport; and
- g) the period of time during which the child is to be transported; and
- h) the anticipated number of children likely to be transported; and
- i) the anticipated number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children during the transportation; and
- j) any requirements for seatbelts or safety restraints under a law of each jurisdiction in which the children are being transported; and
- k) that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the education and care service; and
- l) that written policies and procedures for transporting children are available at the education and care service.

TRANSPORT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

As per the Education and Care Services National Law, our service will '*ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children...from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury*' (Section 167).

Our OSHC Service will conduct comprehensive transport specific risk assessments to minimize and manage all potential risks for transporting children before authorisation is sought to transport a child. [Reg. 102B, 102D (4)].

A risk assessment will be undertaken at least annually for '*regular transportation*' of children. Each time our Service transports, or arranges, the transport of children as part of an excursion, a new risk assessment will be conducted. All risk assessments will be regularly assessed and evaluated as to facilitate continuous improvement in our service.

Our risk assessment process is guided by the following process:

- **identify** any hazards or potential hazards that transporting the child may pose to the safety, health and wellbeing of the child

- **assess** the risk of harm or potential harm using a risk matrix
- **specify how the identified risks will be managed** by eliminating or minimising the impact using control measures
- **evaluate** the current risk or potential harm by implementing control measures
- **review** and monitor the risk or potential harm to ensure it continues to be managed as a low risk

source: Risk assessment and management ACECQA (2020)

Our risk assessment will consider:

- a) the proposed route and duration of the transportation; and
- b) the proposed pick-up location and destination; and
- c) the means of transport; and
- d) any requirements for seatbelts or safety restraints (as per the law of our jurisdiction); and
- e) any water hazards; and
- f) the number of adults and children involved in the transportation; and
- g) given the risks posed by transportation, the number of educators or other responsible adults to provide supervision and whether any adults with specialized skills are required; and
- h) whether any items should be readily available during transportation (mobile phone, list of emergency contact numbers) and;
- i) the process for entering and exiting-
 - i. the education and care service premises; and
 - ii. the pick-up location or destination (as required); and
- j) procedures for embarking and disembarking the means of transport, including how each child is to be accounted for on embarking and disembarking.

Additional considerations may include:

- the experience of the driver and licensing conditions for the vehicle
- the age, ability, needs and skills of children being transported (non-ambulant, infants)
- the experience of adults involved in transportation and their capacity for supervising children
- movement of children between the vehicle and venues
- traffic conditions
- extreme weather conditions or natural disasters
- environmental hazards such as temperature extremes, smoke
- communication to/from the vehicle- mobile phone reception
- health needs of all children and adults
- first aid provision and management of illness, injuries and emergencies

- child safe practices.

source: NSW Government Kids and Traffic (2020)

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL ENSURE:

- all staff are inducted in the *Safe Transportation Policy* and procedure and have completed practical training
- a copy of any training is kept at the Service
- risk assessments are carried out prior to seeking authorisation for transporting children is made with the Approved Provider
- risk assessments for 'regular transportation' are evaluated to ensure potential risks are identified and managed at least annually or when circumstances for transportation change such as route or destination, identified risks/hazards (water hazards)
- any updates to procedures are clearly communicated to all staff
- rehearsals for transportation of children are conducted throughout the year as 'best practice'
- risk assessments for 'regular transportation' are reviewed at least annually
- details of the safest route for travel, type of vehicle and required restraints are included in the risk assessment
- every reasonable precaution is taken to protect students from harm and hazards likely to cause injury
- effective and adequate supervision is provided (see below)
- educator to child ratio requirements are maintained at all times, including when children are being transported as part of the service activity
- a record of staff working with directly with children (regulation 151) is kept
- compliance with first aid requirements of Regulation 136 is met at all times
- parents/guardians complete a written authorisation for transportation of their child and a copy of this is filed in the child's enrolment record/ attached to the enrolment form (effective 1 Oct 2021)
- a designated educator will be appointed for each excursion or event involving transportation of children to conduct final sweeps and ratio checks
- children are instructed on processes for entering and exiting the OSHC service premises and school (drop off) site; and are aware of pick up and destination locations
- children's attendance is checked against an accurate attendance record showing when children are within the care of the OSHC service. The record of attendance must record the time that the child arrives and departs the OSHC service and signed by the nominated supervisor or educator.

- children's attendance is checked by the supervising educator/staff before departure from the designated pick-up location and marked as present as they disembark from the vehicle
- procedures for the safe handover of children between the Service and other educational site is documented correctly
- educator to child ratio requirements are maintained at all times
- children exit the vehicle using the 'safety door'
- children wear approved seatbelts/restraints whilst the vehicle is in motion in accordance to QLD Road Rules and Road Transport Act
- children are never left unattended in the vehicle
- education on road safety for children is included in the Service's programming (for example Kids and Traffic, Vic Roads Primary School roads information)
- safety rules are developed with children to ensure a clear understanding of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour
- staff are aware of appropriate procedures to be followed in the event of a vehicle crash involving staff and children from the service
- a working mobile phone or other similar means of communication to communicate with the service, parents/carers is provided in case of emergency
- a list of emergency contact numbers for the children being transported
- every effort will be made to notify parents/carers of delays returning to the Service if applicable
- relevant criminal history requirements and Working with Children Checks are made and verified for any person transporting children. WWCC is recorded in staff records
- the person driving the vehicle/bus holds a current Australian driver's licence
- any allegation of misconduct of the educator or staff member will be reported immediately as per the Reportable Conduct Scheme detailed in our *Child Protection Policy* and/or *Child Safe Environment Policy*
- the maximum number of children approved for a service as confirmed on the service approval is adhered to no matter where the children are located, including when they are being transported by the Service [S. 51(4A)]

SAFE MAINTENANCE OF TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL ENSURE:

- the transportation vehicle is fitted with the required child restraints, approved by the Roads and Traffic Authorities (see Rule 266 of the Australian Road Rules)

- there are sufficient seat belts installed for all passengers in accordance with current Australian Safety Standards- (AS/NZS 1754)
- the vehicle has enough fuel to transport the children each day as in accordance to schedule
- the vehicle is registered, roadworthy and insured (general legal requirements and best practice standards are adhered to)
- any repairs are completed as soon as possible by a qualified mechanic
- drivers hold a current Australian driver's licence, licenced to carry the required number of passengers for the vehicle
- in the event of any mechanical or other breakdown, children will be kept safe, comfortable and occupied with suitable activities
- every effort will be made to notify parents/carers of delays returning to the Service if applicable

MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL ENSURE:

- to nominate the person who will be responsible for driving the vehicle- the driver
- flow charts for procedures of what to do in case of an emergency (missing child) are clearly communicated with all stakeholders regularly
- explicitly communicate attendance register procedure with all stakeholders (school, parents, educators)
- roles and responsibilities are clearly communicated with educators
- effective and adequate supervision is provided when children are being transported. Consideration must include:
 - the number, age and ability of children
 - visibility and accessibility
 - physical positioning of educators
 - risks related to the mode of transportation (including travel on foot)
 - risks in the environment, location and while travelling
 - the experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
 - the capacity of an educator to immediately respond to a situation requiring urgent intervention
- an easily recognised and suitably equipped first aid kit is easily accessible during transportation
- educators carry medication, health plans and risk assessments for individual children
- educators are aware of emergency procedures in case of an incident, injury or illness of a child
- at least one staff member accompanying children during transportation holds:
 - an approved first aid qualification and

- a current approved anaphylaxis management training qualification and
- an approved emergency asthma management training qualification

PICKING UP CHILDREN AND DURING TRANSPORTATION

- the vehicle/bus will be parked in a safe location where children are not required to cross any roads (if this is unavoidable, a risk assessment and dedicated procedure for crossing the road will be completed)
- a 'head count' and check children's attendance record is made by the supervising educator/staff member as children assemble in a predetermined location prior to boarding
- children are continuously supervised during transportation by a designated educator/staff member sitting in a location that provides clear vision of all children
- children are to remain seated and secured in appropriate child restraints, if applicable, until the vehicle/bus has completely stopped
- the designated driver of the vehicle/bus complies with all appropriate road, safety and transport regulations
- under no circumstances will the driver of the vehicle/bus and educators supervising the children use handheld mobile phones unless safely parked
- under no circumstances will the driver and educators/employees supervising children be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- the designated driver of the vehicle has the right, *if required* to stop in a safe place until the children conform to the safety guidelines. Parents will be notified if their child continues to be challenging and/or behaving in a dangerous manner.

DROPPING OFF CHILDREN

- the driver must park the vehicle in a safe location close to the entry to the service or location and turn off the ignition
- children are to remain seated until the vehicle/bus has completely stopped
- a designated educator will assist children to safely disembark the vehicle/bus
- children exit the vehicle/bus using the 'safety door' or door located near the kerb
- the designated educator will conduct a 'head count' of children against the attendance record will be checked by the designated educator as they assemble in a predetermined location at the end of the journey and verified by a witness
- the designated educator conducts a final sweep of the vehicle/bus, checking on and under seats to ensure there are no children or belongings left behind

- the designated educator will buckle each seat belt to guarantee no child was left in the vehicle during the final sweep of the vehicle
- educators/staff should check around and under the vehicle
- checks of the vehicle should be recorded, signed by the relevant person and kept for inspection by the Regulatory Authority
- once inside (or on location) the children are signed in which will provide an additional attendance check to confirm all are present
- educators will record the time when children are signed in to the OSHC service or other venue (these must not be pre-filled. Children should only be signed in upon being seen).

EDUCATORS/DRIVER WILL ENSURE:

- driver's licence is current and are in a fit and proper state to drive
- if driving larger vehicles to transport children they hold the relevant licence for the vehicle
- every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury
- they adhere to the road rules and regulations mandated by law within each state/territory
- children remain seated and do not behave in a dangerous or inappropriate manner
- the vehicle is parked in a secure and safe location for children to access
- the number of passengers does not exceed the legal requirement
- a working mobile phone is taken in case of an emergency
- a fully equipped first aid kit is easily accessible
- educators/drivers wear a high visibility vest
- once all children have exited the vehicle/bus, a final sweep of the vehicle will be made checking that there are no children or belongings left behind.
- checks of the vehicle should be recorded, signed by the relevant person/s and kept for inspection by the Regulatory Authority

FAMILIES WILL:

- adhere to the Service's Delivery of children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises *Policy* and *Safe Transportation Policy*
- communicate any change in transportation requirements for their child with management/nominated supervisor as soon as they are aware (for example: no transport is required on a particular day as the child has returned home from school due to illness)
- notify the Service if their child is going to be absent on a particular day and not require transport

- ensure written permission for transportation of their child by the Service is granted by either the parent or authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record
- update emergency contact numbers regularly

EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIOS (ACECQA 2020)

Over preschool age	1:15	NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, NSW
	1:11	ACT
	1:13	WA (Regulation 369)
		(or 1:10 if kindergarten children are in attendance)

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/ REFLECTION

Our *Safe Transportation Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

RESOURCES

Childcare Centre Desktop

Safe Transportation of Children Module

- Transporting Children Risk Assessment Template
- Safe Transportation Procedure
- Bus Pick Up Drop Off Checklist

[Kids and Traffic- Early Childhood Road and Safety Education Program](#)

- Transporting children safely- Guidance on Understanding safe transport and travel requirements for education and care service providers (2020).
- Safe Travel and Transport- Advice for working with children, families, schools and communities (2020).

SOURCE

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

ACECQA. (2021). Policy and Procedure Guidelines. *Safe Transportation of Children*.

Australian Government Department of Education. (2011). *My Time Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia*.

Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011)

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).

Kids and Traffic Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program (NSW)

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Road Transport (Safety & Traffic Management) Act 1999.

Queensland Government Early Childhood Education and Care (2021) [Guidelines for health and safety-Transportation](#)

Vic Roads- Primary school road safety education resources

[Western Australian Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Kylie Rickard	Assistant Director	September 2022
POLICY REVIEWED	JULY/SEPTEMBER 2022	NEXT REVIEW DATE	JULY 2023
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> policy maintenance – additional National Law section added Western Australia services- check Regulation 369 for ratio requirements Western Australian National Regulations added no major changes to policy addition of various roles for a designated educator- e.g. buckling each seat belt together after children have exited the vehicle/bus minor formatting edits within text hyperlinks checked and repaired as required September 2022 small edits following Kids and Traffic information Continuous improvement section, <i>effective</i> supervision, clear communication with all stakeholders, deleted comment driver acting as supervisor (this would be in breach of regulations) 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
OCTOBER 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> additional law/regulations added- ACECQA Guidelines to Policy and Procedure document (August 2021) additional consideration for risk assessment included training and rehearsals of transport policy and procedure added as best practice checks of the vehicle after disembarkation to be recorded as best practice 	JULY 2022	
OCTOBER 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevant National Law added clarification of adequate supervision added additional information re: communication/telephone additional resources added- Kids and Traffic 	JULY 2021	
AUGUST 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy name changed to reflect new regulations- Safe Transportation 	JULY 2021	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW regulations added (effective 1 October 2020) • definitions added to reflect amendments to Regulations • transport-specific risk assessment added • inclusions for risk assessment and information for written authorisation added • resources added for reference 	
JULY 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional regulations included • further information added to ensure compliance to National Regulations requirements • additional sections- picking up children, dropping off children • additional points included to ensure safety of all children <p>sources checked for currency</p>	JULY 2020
JULY 2019	New policy created for OSHC services	JULY 2020