

Early Years Services – QA2.4 Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises

TRIM Reference: D14/94973 Due for Review: 18 June 2027
Responsible Officer: Coordinator Early Years

Purpose

As the safety, rights, and best interests of the child form the paramount consideration across all aspects of our operations, the transition of children to, and away from, a service requires particular attention, particularly given how busy it can be at certain times and the number of people coming and going. Safeguarding children during their delivery to, and collection from, the service premises can be enabled by the creation of policies and procedures and an effective process for their implementation.

This policy outlines Surf Coast Shire Council's commitment to ensure:

- a consistent and safe process for the arrival and departure of all children attending Surf Coast Shire Council Early Years Services;
- all children are collected by an authorised person as defined below in the authorised person section;
- the education and care service are aware of the different responsibilities that adults may have regarding a child.

Policy Principles

Evidence of link to National Quality Standards: QA 2.2, QA 3.1, QA4, QA 6.6, QA 7.1

Evidence of link to Education & Care Services National Regulations: 86, 87, 99-102, 122, 123, 157 – 161, 168, 170-172

Education and Care Services National Law: Sections 165, 167, 170

Victorian Children's Services Regulations 2020

Scope

All Surf Coast Shire Council Early Years Services staff, children and families accessing the services.

Policy

"The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that a child who is being educated and cared for by the education and care service does not leave the premises except in accordance with r. 99 (4), (Education & Care Services National Regulations 2011).

Children Services Regulations Victoria 2020.

The Early Years' Service responsible person has the responsibility to ensure that:

- An attendance record is kept with: each child's name; the date and time they arrive and depart; and the signature of the person who delivers or collects the child, a nominated supervisor or educator (regulation 158)
- The appropriate risk assessments are completed, and all relevant actions are undertaken in relation to the period during which children are travelling between the education and care service and any other service which provides education or care to children
- Children only leave the service premises:
- if they are given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee
- in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee
- if they are taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee

- if they are given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency (regulation 99).
- An enrolment record is kept for each child which contains the information set out in regulations 160 and 161, including authorisations from families
- All supervision requirements are met during delivery of children to, and collection from, the service premises, including relevant educator to child ratios (regulations 122 and 123)
- Communicate any changes to children's delivery and collection arrangements to educators, staff and families
- A copy of all Court Orders in relation to residence and specific issue orders must be provided to the service upon enrolment or as obtained. These documents will be attached to the child's records and treated confidentially.
- Parents need to notify the service of any changes to these documents as soon as they occur.
- If the service does not have a copy of Court Orders it will assume that both parents/guardians have equal custody of the child therefore both have access.
- In the event that a parent/guardian breaks a Court Order and seeks access to the child, staff/educators will contact the parent/guardian with custody entitlements and the police immediately.
- If the staff/educators are placed in a position where the health safety and well-being of the child, their own safety and that of others at the service is at risk, they should enact the service's Emergency Management Plan (located at the education & care service) and contact the police.
- The service Team Leader and Early Years Coordinator are to be contacted.
- If a child that has been identified as 'at risk' does not attend the service and the service has not been notified, staff are to contact the family to check in.

Parents/Guardians have a responsibility to ensure that:

- They provide authorisations in their child's enrolment form and ensure the information is kept up-to-date.
- The service is provided with a copy of all current Court Orders in relation to their child.
- The service responsible person is notified if there are any changes to these orders as soon as they occur.
- They complete the attendance record when their child arrives and leaves, including: their child's name; the date and time they arrive and depart; and their signature.
- Parents/guardians must provide in writing the name of the person or persons who are authorised to collect their child from the education and care service. An authorised person must be 18 years or older.

Children are only permitted to leave the service premises if (regulation 99):

- They are given into the care of a parent/guardian, an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent/guardian or authorised nominee.
- They leave in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent/guardian or authorised nominee.
- They are taken on a regular outing or an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent/guardian or authorised nominee.
- They are given into the care of a person, or taken outside the premises, because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency.
- No child will be released into the care of a person who is not identified on the enrolment form without prior notice from the parent/guardian. Where verbal notice is given, this is to be followed up with written permission from the parent/guardian within 7 days.
- Parent/guardian introducing the adult who may collect their child is ideal; where this is not possible photo identification is required.

Sign in/sign out

- Children must be signed in and out either electronically or paper based at the service or upon arrival/departure at the bush/beach kinder site or excursion location via the Attendance Records.
- For paper based the child's name, time of arrival, expected time of departure must be written clearly and signed by the person delivering and collecting the child.
- The parent/guardian must notify the staff and record on the Attendance Record either paper based or electronically, if someone other than the parent or guardian will be collecting the child.

Authorised nominee/person

- No child is to be released to persons other than those nominated by parents/guardians and recorded in the Child Enrolment Record (located at the education & care service).

- Parents/guardians must provide in writing the name of the person or persons who are authorised to collect their child from the education and care service. An authorised person must be 18 years or older.
- Any change to an authorised person, including a Family Court document, requires the Child Enrolment Record to be updated.
- Verbal authorisation, along with a description of the person, can be accepted for a new person to collect the child in an emergency, but this must be followed up with written permission from the parent/guardian within 7 days.
- People unfamiliar to the education and care service may be required to provide photo identification or other satisfactory identification before a child is released into their care.

Unauthorised nominee/person

- An unauthorised person includes:
 - a person who is prohibited by a Court Order from having contact with the child or,
 - a person who does not have written permission from the child's parent/guardian to collect them from the service.
- If an unauthorised person arrives to collect a child, the child must not be released into that person's care until a parent/guardian is contacted to verify that the person is authorised to do so.
- Verbal authorisation, along with a description of the person, can be accepted for a new person to collect the child in an emergency, but this must be followed up with written permission from the parent/guardian within 7 days. Proof of identification must be sighted at pick up (driver's license).
- A child may only be taken from the service by staff/educators or they are given into the care of a person, or taken outside the premises without parental consent if the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency. In these situations, the child's parent/guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

Collection of Children by Unfit Person

- A child will not be given into the care of a person if the staff/educator has reasonable grounds to believe that doing so would place the child in danger, even if the person in question has lawful authority to collect the child.
- Situations where concern may occur include:
 - A parent/guardian or other person who is authorised to collect the child seems too ill, or affected by alcohol or drugs, to safely care for the child.
 - Where a person collecting a child from the service is believed to be under the age of 18 and they cannot provide proof of age.
 - If unknown to the staff/educator, authorised persons (as listed on the enrolment form, or advised by the parent/guardian verbally) will be requested to show photo identification when collecting the child.

In this situation staff/educators will:

- Contact one of the other people who is authorised to collect the child, and arrange alternate means for the collection of the child.
- If the staff/educators are placed in a position where the health safety and well-being of the child, their own safety and that of others at the service is at risk, they should enact the service's Emergency Management Plan (located at the education & care service – (inclusive of the Lockdown Plan) and contact the police.
- The service Team Leader and Early Years Coordinator are to be contacted.

Non-Collection of Children

If the designated person fails to collect a child from the centre/premises within 15 minutes of closing time and no contact has been made with the service the following procedure will take place:

- The service staff/educator will contact the parents/guardians on the telephone numbers given.
- If no contact can be made, the emergency contacts will be called in turn and asked to collect the child.
- If emergency contacts can't be reached staff/educator will stay with the child until contact with parents/guardians can be made.
- If contact is not able to be made with parents/guardians after one hour, the staff member/educator will consult with the relevant Early Years Team Leader, Coordinator Early Years and the police will be contacted and the Department of Education will be notified (DE).

Late Collection of Children Fees (Occasional Care only)

- Early Years Services will work in partnership with families to avoid the need to apply a late pick up of children fee wherever possible.
- Special circumstances i.e. traffic accident or vehicle breakdown, will be given consideration in relation to the administration of late pick-up fees.
- Whenever possible the parent(s)/guardian(s) are to phone the service to advise they will be late to collect their child.
- For repeated late collection of child/ren the following steps will apply:
 - Teacher/Team Leader will speak to parent and inform them in writing of our late fee as stated in the policy. Policy will be provided to family.
 - If late collection continues, a late collection fee of \$15 per 15 minutes or part thereof will be charged per child. This charge is not eligible for CCS

Definitions

Authorised Nominee: A person who has been given permission by a parent or family member to collect the child from the service.

Excursion: An outing organised by an education and care service, where they leave the licensed space.

Medical Attention: Includes a visit to a registered medical practitioner or attendance at a hospital.

Medical Emergency: An injury or illness that is acute and poses an immediate risk to a person's life or long-term health.

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 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 the same for each occasion on which the child is transported.

Transportation: Transportation forms part of an education and care service if the service remains responsible for children during the period of transportation. The responsibility for, and duty of care owed to, children applies in scenarios where services are transporting children, or have arranged for the transportation of children, between an education and care service premises and another location, for example their home, school, or a place of excursion.

Examples of transport not forming part of a service include: • private transport provided by families and carers (i.e. carers not engaged by/registered with a service) • transport provided and/or arranged by an entity other than the approved provider, e.g. a school bus, and the children are not under the care of the approved provider • transport where the approved provider is providing the transport service in a capacity other than as the approved provider, e.g. a government department that provides an education and care service, provides school education, and provides a school bus to school students, on which the children who attend the service also travel for practical reasons (such as in a remote or rural location) • when a disability service picks up children and transports them to school or an activity.

Parent In relation to a child, includes:

a. A guardian of the child; and

b. A person who has parental responsibility for the child under a decision or order of a court.

For regulation 99, 'parent' does not include a parent who is prohibited from having contact with the child.

Source: National Law (Definitions)

Related Court Orders:

Previous Terminology	Current Terminology
Access	Contact
Custody	Residence and Specific Issues Order for day-to-day care and control
Guardianship	Specific Issues Order gives responsibility for long term care & welfare

Related Procedure

Nil.

References

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Policies

D22/217989	Early Years Enrolment & Orientation Policy
D15/42541	Early Years Acceptance and refusal of authorisation Policy
D15/35312	Early Years Providing a child safe environment Policy
D14/105413	Early Years Incident, injury, trauma and illness Policy
D18/125865	Early Years Safe Transportation of Children and Road Safety Policy
D14/70705	Early Years Excursions Policy

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Services Work Instructions and Forms

D26/63091	Visitor registration in Early Years Services via SISO
D19/65026	Road safety and safe Transport – Work Instruction

Other References

Education and Care Services National Law 2010
 Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
 ACECQA National; Quality Framework Resource Kit (2011)
 Victorian Children's Services Regulations 2020
 Childcare Service Handbook (Department of Education)

Document History

Version	Document History	Approved by – Date
1	Approved	General Manager Culture and Community – 1 April 2014
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4	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening – 21 June 2019
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