Plan of Management

Childcare Centre

10 BEN BULLEN PLACE, GOULBURN NSW 2580

DECEMBER 2024

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Plan of Management (POM) forms an essential part of the ongoing management requirements for the Child Care Centre prepared by Greenscape Design. This Plan of Management is to be read in conjunction with the Noise Assessment report prepared by Day Design Acoustic Engineers (report dated 6/12/24) and the architectural drawings prepared by Greenscape Design, issue A dated 14/11/24). This Plan is required by Council and reflects a reasonable agreement between the Centre Operators and the Council to minimise any adverse impact upon neighbours and to ensure a high standard of child care provision for the Central Coast Council.

It is required by and reflects the information provided in the development application and the Statement of Environmental Effects and conditions of development consent for the centre the Council may impose.

2 CAPACITY OF CENTRE

The Centre's capacity is for a total of 99 Children as follows:

0-2 years: 24 places

2-3 years: 35 places

3-5 years: 40 places

This capacity is based upon the design provided by the architect and is subject to licensing approval.

3 HOURS OF OPERATION

The centre opens daily Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 6.30pm, fifty-one (51) weeks a year and closes for Public Holidays and for 1 week over the Christmas-New Year period.

4 STAFFING

The centre (with 99 Children) will be operated by a minimum of seventeen staff (17), (including the primary contact staff and Nominated Supervisor) at any one time.

There will be a structured routine where the children will be divided between their age groups of 0-3 years (babies-toddlers) and 3-5 years (Pre-schoolers). A daily programme will be based on their needs and individual development/progress.

Each group will be required to maintain staff to children ratios in accordance with the Childcare Regulations.

Our analysis of Arrival and Departure times across our existing centres supports the staffing requirements and is in accordance with the requirements of the *Children's Services Regulations*.

Education and Care Services National Regulations - Chapter 7, Part 7.1, Division 2.

5 STAFF ARRIVAL

Not all staff arrive at the same time but generally staggered between the hours of 7.00am to 9.30am.

Full-time staff work 8 hours a day. Part-time or casual staff work shifts as required.

6 PARENTS/CHILDREN ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

In the morning, parents usually arrive between the hours of 7:00am-10:00am.

Pick-up by parents generally commences from 3.30pm to 6.30pm.

The trends of arrival and departure times are based upon analysis across a number of existing centres.

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 99.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

During indoor play activities, the external windows and doors on the northern and western facades of the play rooms will be closed during operational hours.

Indoor activities are programmed depending on children's needs and developmental stages.

All indoor as well as outdoor activities are supervised by the regulated number of trained staff.

Our routines are flexible based on children's needs and interests and the weather conditions.

Typically, the daily routine for all age groups is as below:

2-3 Room Daily Routine

7.30am Centre opens

Childcare Centre work cycle commences

8:30am Childcare Centre work cycle ongoing

Progressive morning tea commences

9:00am Childcare Centre work cycle concludes

Progressive morning tea concludes

Outdoor physical play session commences

11:00am Transition time – varied activities

Group time commences:

Walking on the line

Grace and Courtesy

- Language

Art/craft

Music and Movement

Storytelling

12:00pm Lunch time

12:40pm Sleep/Rest time

2:30pm Sleep/Rest time concludes

Afternoon tea is served

3:00pm Outdoor physical play session commences

5:00pm Outdoor physical play session concludes

Late afternoon tea is served

Indoor activities

6.00pm Centre closes

3-6 Room Daily Routine

7.30am Centre opens

Childcare Centre work cycle commences

8:30am Childcare Centre work cycle ongoing

Progressive morning tea commences

9:00am Childcare Centre work cycle concludes

Progressive morning tea concludes

Outdoor physical play session commences

10:00am Outdoor physical play session concludes

Childcare Centre work cycle commences

11:00am Childcare Centre work cycle concludes

Transition time

Group time commences:

- Walking on the line exercises

Grace and Courtesy

Language

- Art/craft

Music and Movement

Storytelling

12:30pm Lunch time

1:00pm Sleep/Rest time/Quiet activities

2:30pm Sleep/Rest time concludes

3:00pm Communal afternoon tea

4:00pm Outdoor physical play session commences

5:00pm Outdoor physical play session concludes

Late afternoon tea is served

Indoor activities

6.00pm Centre closes

7 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND SUPERVISION

In line with the SunSmart Recommendations published by Cancer Council NSW (Refer to Annexure E - the Sun Protection Policy), the following outdoor play schedule is implemented at Childcare Centre Academy. Outdoor activity times and sun protection practices to include:

October – March: At the childcare centre we minimise outdoor activity between 11am and 3pm

(daylight saving time). Sun protection practices are required at all times when

outside.

April- September: At the childcare centre, outdoor activity can be planned at any time of the day.

Sun protection practices are required between 10am-2pm except in June and

July when the UV Index is mostly below 3 (in NSW).

All sun protection practices are considered when planning excursions and all events held at the service.

The general outdoor play schedule is set out below:

Mornings: 8:00am till 11:00am

Afternoons: 3:00pm till 5:30pm

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 168.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities vary from day to day and are dependent upon the weather and the programme, including:

- Ball games
- Team play
- Balancing, Climbing, Stepping
- Using variety of gross motor skills development equipment
- Environmental and nature-based activities
- Supervised play
- Sand play
- Water based play (not swimming pool)
- Free play

Monitoring

The monitoring process for outdoor play is the same as for indoor play as follows:

Age Group	Monitoring Ratio – 2016
0-3 Years	1 Staff: 4 Children
3-6 Years	1 Staff: 10 Children

The outdoor play area will be used only during the centre hours of operation.

All outdoor activities are fully supervised and monitored. Teachers and children are encouraged to participate in quiet play activities.

The specified outdoor play policy and times shall be adhered to.

Exceptional circumstances may apply.

The centre manager shall ensure that outdoor play activities are conducted in an orderly fashion and that excessive noise from children playing, etc., is avoided wherever possible and practical.

Play groups, will be scheduled in accordance with the recommendations from the Acoustics Consultant, Day Design Rev x report dated 6/12/2024.

AFTER HOURS EVENTS

The Centre may conduct the following events after 6.00pm and until 8.00pm:

- (a) Parent/Teacher's Information Evening (maximum 4)
- (b) Teacher Training (maximum 4);

Items (a), (b) are held inside of the centre with doors and windows closed.

8 ENROLMENT AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The childcare centre will establish an enrolment procedure and terms and conditions which parents sign.

The centre will operate approved childcare software.

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 160, Regulation 168.

9 FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND GRIEVANCE

The childcare centre will encourage family involvement and communication relating to the centre, children, curriculum and activities.

In addition, they will establish policies to properly manage any grievances:

Parents should receive an outline, which provides an overview the company, philosophy, curriculum and policies.

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 160, 168, 172, 174, 175.

10 INSURANCES

In order to be licenced, the operator will take out the following insurances:

- Childcare Insurance which covers all aspects of a childcare centre and includes Public Liability Insurance of \$20 Million
- 2 Workers Compensation Insurance

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 29.

11 CENTRE POLICIES and PROCEDURES

The centres operations will be documented in their Policies and Procedures.

A listing of these policies and procedures is attached to this Plan of Management as Annexure "A".

A carparking procedure/policy is also included – Attached as Annexure "C".

These Policies and Procedures make up many volumes. All staff must read the Policies and Procedures and confirm in writing that they have done so. The Policies and Procedures should be discussed at Staff Meetings and continually updated and redistributed as they are amended to retain relevance and compliance.

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 168, 170, 171, 172.

12 CENTRE CLEANLINESS, WASTE MANAGMENT and MAINTENANCE

Centres are kept clean by both staff and external professional cleaners and gardeners. The centre has a designated WH & S officer who maintains a schedule of required maintenance, which is routinely undertaken by handymen, builders and other tradesmen as required.

As the Centre educates children on environmental issues, it is a core objective to recycle our waste.

Waste Management Policy 7.30 is attached as Annexure "B".

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 103 – Regulation 115.

13 FIRE SAFETY and EMERGENCY

The centre must carry certified fire equipment commensurate with the standards.

All equipment is recertified as required by the law.

The centre will have documented Emergency Evacuation Plans as well as Evacuation diagrams on display throughout the centre.

The staff and children will have regular training sessions on how to proceed in cases of emergency.

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Regulation 97.

Refer to "Annexure D"

14 COMMUNITY and NEIGHBOURS

The childcare centre regards itself as a good neighbour.

Our car parking policy, encourages parents, visitors and staff to minimise inconveniences caused by parking outside designated parking spaces. Please see Annexure "C" for our Car Park Policy.

With regards to car parking, please refer to the traffic report completed by Mclaren Traffic PTY LTD dated 5/12/2024.

The childcare centre seeks to assists neighbours (especially if aged) with their gardens and home help.

The childcare centre supports requests from local schools and other associations to present opportunities to families and involvement in their activities.

Complaints from neighbours are very rare, however, when received they are taken seriously and resolved in a positive manner. The company's internal risk and governance management processes ensure that these issues are brought to the attention of the Management Team.

Noise Management

The childcare centre will follow recommendations by the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants as prescribed within the AAAC Guideline For Child Care Centre Acoustic Assessment 2010.

The childcare centre will -

- Implement a separate daily program for both the warmer and cooler months should be established to regulate the total time spent outdoors and indoors (as detailed above).
- Display the outdoor play program and ensure that this is made publicly available to parents and neighbours.
- Ensure that a contact phone number for the Centre's Management is made available to neighbours to facilitate communication and to resolve any neighbourhood issues which may arise due to operation of the Centre.
- Ensure that staff are made aware of the need to minimise noise to the neighbouring residences
- Ensure that children who are or become unsettled and are crying whilst outdoors will be comforted immediately and if still crying will be encouraged to go inside with an educator to be comforted
- Ensure the supervision of children playing in the outdoor areas and make every attempt to encourage children not to make unreasonable noise
- Follow the supervision plans established by Centre Management to ensure that the children are effectively and efficiently supervised and monitored at all time.
- Ensure that parents and guardians are informed of the importance of noise minimisation when entering the site, dropping off or picking up children.
- Will make every effort to ensure that amplified music is avoided to meet the noise criteria.
- Ensure that where safe, possible, and appropriate, the doors of indoor playrooms may remain open when in use.
- Ensure that where safe, possible, and appropriate, the windows of indoor playrooms remain closed during use.

15 ADMINISTRATION

In addition to the onsite staff, the centre has accessed to and off site (head) office which provides administration, technical, accounting, human resource and general management resources to the Centre as required.

This ensures that centres can operate with less onsite staff, in addition to the centres having access to highly skilled specialists to ensure that the centre operates at maximum professionalism and efficiency.

16 **SECURITY and SAFETY**

The centre will have the following security measures in place:

- Surrounding child-proof fences and gates
- Security cameras and CCTV external and internal
- Back to base alarms.
- Swipe card access to all staff and parents to the centre.

Education and Care Services National Regulations – Part 4.1, Division 1, Regulations 77 – 96.

Annexure "A" – Section 2, lists the policies relating to the safety and security of childcare centres, including Supervision of Children. Annexure "D" shows the policies for Emergency Evacuation and Lockdown.

17 SALES and MARKETING

The Centre's sales and marketing plan may include the following avenues for publicising the centre:

- Banners
- Site advertising
- Bulk advertising e.g. flyers
- Internet/web page
- Centre opening
- Newsletters

ANNEXURE "A"

Quality Area 1 – Educational Program and Practice Contents

- 1.1 Philosophy
- 1.2 Education and Curriculum Policy
- 1.3 Transitions Policy
- 1.3A Transitioning between rooms form
- 1.4 NQF Overview
- 1-5 Excursion policy

Daily Routine: 2-3 room

Daily Routine: 3-6 room

Quality Area 2 - Children's Health and Safety

- 2.1 Child Protection Policy
- 2.2 Medication Policy
- 2.2A Medication Register
- 2.2B Monthly Medication Checklist
- 2.3 Medical Conditions Policy
- 2.3A Risk Minimisation and Communication Plan
- 2.3B Epilepsy Management Plan
- 2.3C Anaphylaxis Epipen Personal Action Plan
- 2.3D Allergic Reactions Action Plan
- 2.3E Anaphylaxis Epipen General Action Plan Poster
- 2.4 Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy
- 2.4A Disease Notification advised by NSW Health
- 2.5 Food Safety Policy
- 2.5A Receiving food safely guide
- 2.5B KGF Receivables checklist template
- 2.6 Gloves Policy
- 2.7 Nutrition Policy

- 2.8 Clothing and footwear Policy
- 2.9 Dental Health Policy
- 2.10 Safe Sleep and Rest Time Policy
- 2.11 Nappy Change Policy and Procedure
- 2.11A Nappy Change Compliance
- 2.11B Nappy Change Poster
- 2.12 Hygiene and Infection Control Policy
- 2.13 Safe Storage of Dangerous Goods Policy
- 2.13A First Aid Action Plan on Dangerous Products
- 2.14 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- 2.14A Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record
- 2.14B Internal Report Template
- 2.14C Witness Statement Template
- 2.15 Toileting Procedure
- 2.16 Supervision of Children Policy
- 2.17 Emergency Evacuation Policy
- 2.17A Emergency Evacuation Procedure
- 2.17B Emergency Evacuation Record Form
- 2.17C Lockdown Policy
- 2.17D Lockdown Practice Form
- 2.17E Lockdown Procedure
- 2.18 Child Arrival, Departure and Access Policy
- 2.19 Sun Protection Policy
- 2.20 Late and Non-Collection of Children Policy
- 2.21 Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol Policy
- 2.22 Water Safety Policy
- 2.23 Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy
- 2.24 Death of a Child Policy
- 2.25 Head Lice Policy
- 2.26 Bottle Safety and Preparation Policy

- 2.26A Bottle Preparation Procedure
- 2.27 Dummy Policy
- 2.28 Excursion Risk Management Plan Template

KGF Food Safety Certificate

KGF HACCP

Cot Room Check

Quality Area 3 – Physical Environment Policy Contents

- 3.1 Sustainability Statement
- 3.2 Environmental Sustainability Policy
- 3.3 Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment Policy
- 3.4 The Indoor and Outdoor Environment
- 3.4A Poisonous Plants to Avoid fact sheet
- 3.5 Guidelines for ordering equipment
- 3.5A Purchase Request Spreadsheet
- 3.6 Animals in the Environment Policy
- 3.7 Sandpit Policy
- 3.8 Maintenance Policy
- 3.9 Waste Management Plan

Quality Area 4 – Staffing Arrangements Contents

- 4.1 Staff Handbook
- 4.2 Student Volunteer Policy
- 4.2A Student Volunteer Handbook
- 4.3 ECA Code of Ethics (2016)
- 4.4 Code of Conduct Policy
- 4.5 Staffing Requirements Checklist
- 4.6 Ratio and Qualification Requirements
- 4.7 Staff Dress Code Policy
- 4.8 Staff Sick Leave and Carers Policy

- 4.9 Harassment and Bullying Policy
- 4.10 Privacy Policy
- 4.11 Staff WH&S Policy
- 4.11(a) Procedure for reporting staff injuries or incidents
- 4.12 Opening and Closing the Centre Policy
- 4.13 Job Descriptions

Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children Contents

- 5.1 Interactions with Children Policy
- 5.2 Behaviour Guidance Policy
- 5.3 Extreme Behaviour Policy
- 5.4 Inclusion and Equity Policy
- 5.5 Convention on the rights of the child

Quality Area 6 - Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities

- 6.1 Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- 6.2 Family Participation and Communication Policy
- 6.3 Dealing with Complaints Policy
- 6.4 Parent Code of Conduct
- 6.5 Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisation
- 6.6 Insurance Policy
- 6.7 Parent Handbook
- 6.8 Car Park Policy

Breastfeeding Support Plan

Quality Area 7 – Leadership and service management

- 7.9 Written Communication Policy
- 7.10 Dealing with Complaints Policy
- 7.10A Grievance Complaints Register
- 7.12 Attachment Management Structure Template
- 7.13 Childcare centrework based Child Care Policy

- 7.14 Privacy Policy
- 7.15 Harassment and Bullying Policy 2016 update
- 7.16 Acceptable use of computers, internet and email policy
- 7.32 CCTV Policy and procedure
- 7.38 New Staff Checklist

Convention on the rights of the child

Student volunteer handbook

ANNEXURE "B"

3.9 - Waste Management Plan

Aim: To ensure that centre waste is properly and safely disposed of in accordance with local government regulations, workplace health and safety policies and environmental guidelines.

Reason: Proper rubbish removal and waste management is an important aspect of the day to day operations of a child care centre. Waste must be held and disposed of in a manner which is safe to children, staff and families, does not impact negatively on the community and has regard to the environment. Waste management practises must also comply with relevant local government regulations, other centre policies and work place health and safety guidelines.

Internal Rubbish Bins

- Use separate garbage containers in the nappy change (must be covered bin), bathrooms, kitchen and play areas.
- Ensure indoor garbage containers are waterproof and have a tightly fitting lid.
- Line indoor garbage containers with appropriate bin liners.
- Empty daily at a minimum unless required more frequently and insert new liners.
- Clean indoor garbage containers weekly.

Nappy Disposal

- Disposable nappies must be disposed of immediately.
- They are to be placed in the covered bin, besides the nappy change table. The bin then needs to be removed and placed in the external waste bin, making it inaccessible to children.
- The nappy change bin needs to be emptied after a series of nappy changes or after an individual nappy change that is a bowel movement.
- All Nappies are to be placed in plastic bags that are tied or otherwise sealed appropriately.

External Waste Management

Local Governments can have varying requirements for waste removal. Some allow for Council bins to be utilised, others require commercial waste management services to be used or a mixture of both. It will be necessary to determine the best waste removal option that works in a particular local government area.

In those locations that require commercial waste collection, the childcare centre the seek assistance from their nominated service provider in the calculation of suitable bin sizes based upon centre size. Our normal collection frequency is weekly.

Practice, Cleanliness and Hygiene

- All boxes should be broken down prior to placing in bins.
- All decomposable rubbish should be tied or sealed bags.
- Keep outdoor garbage area clean.
- Do not place rubbish outside unless it will fit into the bin.
- Clean outdoor garbage container if there has been a spill.
- Monitor external waste bin and area for signs of pests and rodents and odours.

- Report any sign of pest build up or infestation to cleaner to provide a complete clean of the rubbish area.
- Report odorous bins that cannot be effectively cleaned or damaged bins to collection service and request replacement.
- If the collection service's bins are full prior to regular weekly collection date, contact the facilities team to arrange for interim collection.
- Ensure the collection service is aware of any special needs of local community and neighbours when collecting rubbish.
- Hands should be cleaned after any handling of garbage.

Environmental Sustainability

- Our educators will model sustainable practices by embedding sustainability into all aspects of the daily running of our service operations including:
 - recycling materials for curriculum and learning activities
 - minimising waste and effectively using service resources
 - o turning off equipment and lights when not in use
 - Using the least hazardous cleaning substance appropriate for the situation, for example, ordinary detergent for cleaning dirt from tables and other surfaces.
 - Where possible, composting
 - o where possible, maintaining a worm farm
 - o maintaining a no dig vegetable/herb garden
 - o Incorporating water wise strategies such as drip irrigation and ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed.
 - o where possible, using food that we have grown in meals on our weekly menu
 - o implementing environmentally friendly pest management

Specific Centre Requirements

 Any specific requirements that may occur from centre to centre should be added to this policy for that centre.

ANNEXURE "C"

6.8 - Car Park Policy

Aim: To ensure the safety and well-being of children, their families, staff and visitors, when using the childcare centre's car parking facilities, including street parking.

Reason: The car parking facilities are used by families, children, staff and visitors to the centre. When vehicles are continuously entering, parking their vehicle and exiting the car park, particularly in peak periods, it can pose a safety issue for the users of the car park. Therefore, it is necessary that procedures are followed for safety reasons and out of courtesy for all users of the car parking facilities.

Procedures for families when car park facilities are located within centre premises:

- > Ensure that the vehicle is parked strictly in allocated parking bays. This includes parking within parking bay lines, ensuring the vehicle does not cross over the parking bay lines or double parking.
- Obey any signage and markings within the car park.
- Ensure that adults and child/ren are entering or exiting the vehicle only when the vehicle is at a complete stop and parked in an allocated parking bay.
- Ensure that when driving in the car park that the speed limit of 10 kph is adhered to.
- Where centre car park has separate entries and exits, vehicles must enter and exit the driveway in a forward direction.
- > Ensure that vehicles are entering and exiting the car park using the correct entry and exit points.
- ➤ Be aware of pedestrians (especially children) using the car park when entering or exiting the car park and parking the vehicle,
- Ensure that no children are left in the vehicle when it is unattended. This is illegal and children can be exposed to heat stress, dehydration, car thieves, playing with car controls etc.
- At all times, ensure that child/ren are supervised (preferably by holding the child's hand) when in the car park.
- ➤ Ensure that drop off and collection times are carried out efficiently to ensure parking spots are available to other families. Should a parent or visitor plan to remain at the centre for over 15 minutes during peak periods i.e. 7.30am-9.30am and 3.00-5.30pm, they may be required to park their vehicle outside the car park to ensure there are adequate parking spots for other users.
- Whenever children are in a car, they should be safely buckled-up in <u>child car seats</u> that are correct for each child's age and size. <u>Authorised Restraint Fitting Stations</u> offer expert help on fitting and adjusting child car seats.
- Any parent found to be driving dangerously can be excluded from using the car park and if deemed serious enough can be requested to leave the centre.

Procedures for families when car park facilities are located outside or adjacent to centre premises:

- Ensure that the vehicle is strictly parked in allocated parking bay following the legal parking requirement/s outlined on street/parking signage.
- The childcare centre accepts no liability for families and/or visitors that receive parking and/or traffic infringements.
- Ensure that adults and child/ren are entering or exiting the vehicle only when the vehicle is at a complete stop and parked in an allocated parking bay.
- Be aware, when entering or exiting the car park and parking the vehicle, of pedestrians (especially children) using the car park, entering and exiting their vehicles and/or the centre.
- Ensure that local speed limits are observed.

- Ensure that no children are left in the vehicle when it is unattended. This is illegal and children can be exposed to heat stress, dehydration, car thieves, playing with car controls, etc.
- At all times, ensure that child/ren are supervised when in the parking area.
- At all times, ensure that child/ren are supervised (preferably by holding the child's hand) when in the parking area.
- > Ensure that drop off and collection times are carried out efficiently to ensure parking spots are available to other families, residents and other road users.
- ➤ Whenever children are in a car, they should be safely buckled-up in <u>child car seats</u> that are correct for each child's age and size. <u>Authorised Restraint Fitting Stations</u> offer expert help on fitting and adjusting child car seats.
- > Be mindful of residents when arriving or leaving the centre. Please consider the following:
 - Not blocking driveways or parking too close to driveways.
 - Not always taking the same parking spots. Try and use a variety of spots.
 - o Keep noise to a minimum.
 - Be as fast as possible in picking up and dropping off.
- Any parent found to be driving dangerously can be excluded from using the car park and if deemed serious enough can be requested to leave the centre.

Procedures for Staff:

- Services with onsite parking will have designated car parking spaces for staff members. These spaces will be clearly marked to define them as "Staff" spaces.
- Staff members are expected to park within these allocated spaces.
- Staff members must not park in spaces designated for families or visitors.
- Please be mindful of residents when parking your vehicle for the duration of your shift. Remember the following:
 - o Not blocking driveways or parking too close to driveways.
 - Not always taking the same parking spots. Try and use a variety of spots.
 - o Keep noise to a minimum.

Source:

Passenger Safety – Children - Staying Safe – NSW Centre for Road Safety http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/index.html

ANNEXURE "D"

2.17 - EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy will provide a framework for:

- the development of specific emergency and evacuation procedures, practices and guidelines at the childcare centre
- raising the awareness of everyone attending the childcare centre about potential emergency situations and appropriate responses.

POLICY STATEMENT

Values

The childcare centre is committed to:

- providing a safe environment for all children, staff and persons participating in programs at the childcare centre.
- having a plan to manage emergency situations in a way that reduces risk to those present on the premises
- ensuring effective procedures are in place to manage emergency incidents at the service
- ensuring an appropriate response during and following emergency incidents to meet the needs of the children, their families, staff and others at the service.

Scope

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of the childcare centre, including during offsite excursions and activities.

Background and legislation

Background

The Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 define an emergency in relation to an education and care service as any situation or event that poses an imminent or severe risk to the persons at the service premises e.g. flood, fire or a situation that requires the service premises to be locked down.

Comprehensive emergency management includes prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Services are required to have policies and procedures in place detailing what needs to be done in an emergency, including an emergency and evacuation floor plan. These policies and procedures must be based on a risk assessment that identifies potential emergencies relevant to the service (Regulation 97).

Legislation and standard

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 97, 98, 168(2)(e)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety, Standard 2.3: Each
 child is protected; Element 2.3.3 Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are
 developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Definitions

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy.

Attendance record: Kept by the service to record details of each child attending the service including name, time of arrival and departure, signature of person delivering and collecting the child or of the Nominated Supervisor or educator (Regulation 158(1)).

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS): The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the world's largest volunteer fire service. Their members provide fire and emergency services to approximately 95 percent of NSW. NSW RFS members attend a range of incidents and activities:

- Bush and grass fires
- House and structure fires
- Storm damage
- Search and rescue
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Community education
- Bush fire mitigation.

The responsibilities of the NSW RFS are set out under the Rural Fires Act 1997.

Duty of care: A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of organisations to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonable foreseeable risk of injury.

Emergency: Includes any situation or event that poses an imminent or severe risk to the persons at the education and care service premises e.g. flood, fire or a situation that requires the service premises to be locked down (National Regulations, page 5).

Hazard: A source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or a combination of these.

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record: Contains details of any incident, injury, trauma or illness that occurs while the child is being educated and cared for by the service. Any incident, injury, trauma or illness must be recorded as soon as is practicable but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.

Notifiable incident: An incident involving workplace health and safety that is required by law to be reported to WorkCover NSW. Notification is required for incidents that result in death or serious injury/illness, or dangerous occurrences. For a complete list of incidents that must be reported to WorkCover NSW, refer to the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy.

Risk management: A structured approach to managing uncertainty related to a threat; a sequence of activities including the identification, assessment and prioritisation of risks followed by co-ordinated and economical application of resources to minimise, monitor and control the probability and/or impact of those risks.

Serious incident: An incident resulting in the death of a child, or an injury, trauma or illness for which the attention of a registered medical practitioner, emergency services or hospital is sought or should have been sought. This also includes an incident in which a child appears to be missing, cannot be accounted for, is removed from the service in contravention of the regulations or is mistakenly locked in/out of the service premises (Regulation 12).

A serious incident should be documented in an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record (sample form available on the ACECQA website) as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the incident.

The Regulatory Authority (ECECD) must be notified within 24 hours of a serious incident occurring at the service (Regulation 176(2)(a)).

Records are required to be retained for the periods specified in Regulation 183.

State of emergency: A situation in which the government is granted special powers, by constitutional or legal provision, to deal with a perceived threat to law and order, or public safety.

Workcover NSW: WorkCover's role is to assist in securing the health, safety and welfare of workers in NSW (https://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/)

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- Ensuring that plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with the relevant authorities, practised, implemented and regularly reviewed.
- conducting a risk assessment to identify potential emergencies that the service may encounter (Regulation 97(2))
- developing instructions for what must be done in the event of an emergency (Regulation 97(1)(a))
- developing an emergency and evacuation floor plan (Regulation 97(1)(b))
- ensuring that the emergency and evacuation procedures are rehearsed at least once every 3 months by all at the service (Regulation 97(3)(a))
- ensuring that the rehearsals of the emergency and evacuation procedures are documented (Regulation 97(3)(b))
- ensuring that a copy of the emergency and evacuation floor plan and instructions are displayed in a prominent position near each exit at the service premises (Regulation 97(4))
- ensuring that those working at, or attending the service, have access to a phone or similar for immediate communication with parents/guardians and emergency services (Regulation 98), and that phone numbers of emergency services are displayed in each room of the service, near the phone
- identifying potential onsite hazards and taking action to manage and minimise risk

- ensuring all infrastructure and service equipment are regularly checked for condition and maintenance, including emergency exit lighting
- ensuring the location of first aid kits, fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment are clearly signposted
- ensuring all emergency equipment is maintained on a regular basis in accordance with requirements specified by regulations, such as the Australian Standards Building Code e.g. fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, evacuation kits, sprinkler systems and alarm or duress systems
- providing a fully-equipped portable first aid kit
- developing a regular training schedule for staff to ensure that they are able to deal with emergency situations e.g. first aid, emergency management and WHS training
- regularly reviewing, evaluating and updating emergency management plans, manuals and procedures (at least annually or following an emergency incident)
- developing procedures to debrief staff following emergency incidents
- conducting spot checks of documentation and practices to ensure all requirements of this
 policy are being complied with
- notifying ECECD in writing within 24 hours of a serious incident (refer to Definitions)
- completing the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record (refer to Definitions) where required
- notifying ECECD within 7 days of an incident that required the service to be closed, or a circumstance that posed a significant risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child attending the service (National Law: Section 174(2)(c); Regulations: 175(2)(b)&(c), 176)
- reporting notifiable incidents (refer to Definitions) in the workplace to Workcover NSW
- engaging with Fire and Rescue NSW and/or NSW RFS regarding fire safety awareness and training for the service, including demonstrations of fire equipment, basic fire safety, smoke alarm, fire blankets and escape plans
- identifying staff and children requiring additional assistance in the event of an emergency
- ensuring that emergency contact details are provided on each child's enrolment form and that these are kept up to date
- ensuring that an attendance record (refer to Definitions) is maintained to account for all children and staff attending the service
- keeping a written record of all visitors to the service, including time of arrival and departure
- ensuring all staff, parents/guardians, children, volunteers and students on placement understand the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency
- ensuring there are induction procedures in place to inform new staff, including casual or relief staff, of the emergency and evacuation policy and procedures
- ensuring all staff, parents/guardians, children, volunteers, students on placement and others attending the service are accounted for in the event of an evacuation
- developing procedures to deal with loss of critical functions, such as power/water shut off.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring that the emergency and evacuation floor plan is displayed in prominent positions and that all parents/guardians, volunteers, contract staff and relief staff are briefed and aware of the procedures
- ensuring that children are adequately supervised at all times and protected from hazards and harm (refer to Supervision of Children Policy)
- ensuring that the Emergency Evacuation Plan is followed in the event of an emergency
- testing alarms and communication systems regularly

• informing the Area Manager and Approved Provider of any serious or notifiable incidents (refer to Definitions) that must be reported to ECECD or Workcover NSW.

Service Supervisors and other educators are responsible for:

- implementing the procedures and responsibilities in this policy and the service's Emergency Evacuation Plan
- supervising the children in their care and protecting them from hazards and harm (refer to Supervision of Children Policy)
- providing support to children before, during and after emergencies
- checking that the attendance record (refer to Definitions) is completed at the beginning and end of each day
- checking that the emergency evacuation procedure is displayed in prominent positions and that all attending the service are made aware of these
- rehearsing emergency evacuation procedures with the children at least once every 3 months (or more often, as required) and ensuring that these are documented
- providing feedback regarding the effectiveness of emergency and evacuation procedures to inform policy, procedures and manuals etc.
- completing the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record, as required
- informing the Nominated Supervisor and/or Area Manager about any serious incidents or notifiable incidents (refer to Definitions) at the service
- attending first aid, emergency management and WHS training, as required
- communicating with parents about emergency procedures
- raising children's awareness about potential emergency situations and appropriate responses.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- familiarising themselves with the service's emergency and evacuation policy and procedures and the service's Emergency Evacuation Plan
- ensuring they complete the attendance record (refer to Definitions) on delivery and collection of their children (refer to Child Arrival, Departure and Access Policy)
- providing emergency contact details on their child's enrolment form and ensuring that this is kept up to date
- reinforcing the service's emergency and evacuation procedures with their child
- following the directions of staff in the event of an emergency or when rehearsing emergency procedures.

Volunteers, students and visitors, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider/Management Team will:

- review the policy to determine whether it adequately addresses a range of potential emergency situations
- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness particularly following an emergency

- assess the ability of the Nominated Supervisor, Service Supervisors, educators, staff, children
 and others to follow the policy and procedures in the event of an emergency
- review procedures, including evacuation procedures, to determine their effectiveness, including timing and processes
- use information gained from spot checks and the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record to inform proposed changes to this policy
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required by legislation, research, policy and best practice
- consult with emergency services such as Fire and Rescue NSW, to ensure the policy and procedures meet current best practices
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard
- Fire and Rescue NSW www.fire.nsw.gov.au/
- NSW Rural Fire Services www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/
- Workcover NSW https://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

2.17A Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Role of Educators

- Immediately when the alarm sounds (3 whistle blows or via PA) educators will return to the
 group with which they are working if it is safe to do so. Educators will then assist with the
 evacuation.
- Educators are to ensure that sign in/out rolls and emergency contact lists remain in the vicinity of that particular group of children at all times and if evacuation is required that a primary carer collect that roll and list in the process of evacuating children.
- After the alarm has been raised, group children and evacuate through the nearest exit to the designated safe area with the children's sign in/out roll and emergency contact lists.
- Primary carer to call roll and settle children.
- Supervise and reassure children.

Nominated Supervisor's Role:

- Collect educator sign in book, a phone, and emergency contact list and evacuation bag.
- Use red phone to alert Staff on other levels
- Check toilets, kitchen, classrooms, cot room, and laundry and staff room
- Ring **000** as soon as possible.
- Follow children and other educators to designated area (see map)
- Oversee and check attendances of children, educators, volunteers, families and visitors.
- Supervise and reassure children.
- Complete the written record detailing the evacuation

2.17C - Lockdown Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Standard 2.3: Each child is protected

Element 2.3.1: Children are adequately supervised at all times.

Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

Element 2.3.3: Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

Element 2.3.4: Educators, coordinators and staff members are aware of their roles and responsibilities to respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

Planning for a service lockdown

Not all emergency situations will require education and care services to evacuate from the premises. Some situations, such as the threat of a violent person or a police operation in the vicinity, may require the service to go into lockdown.

Examples of potential lockdown situations:

When there is a foreseeable threat of harm to staff, children or visitors caused by but not limited to the following -

- Severe weather
- Toxic/chemical spills
- Dangerous and/or threatening persons
- Unwanted/uninvited visitors
- Violent, intoxicated and/or drug affected persons
- Dangerous animals
- · Unidentified external disturbance

Lockdown means that the education and care service locks all doors and windows and where possible, removes children, educators and other adults from view. These situations may take time to be resolved and locations should be selected to allow for easy access to kitchen, bathroom and nappy change facilities. These areas will need to allow for children to engage in small or large group experiences during the lockdown period.

STEP ONE

Whoever finds or is made aware of the emergency sounds the alarm and notifies the Nominated Supervisor.

STEP TWO

All educators and staff lock external doors and windows and close blinds or curtains where possible. All available adults are to assist with moving younger children to the designated assembly point.

STEP THREE

Where Police did not notify the education and care service of the emergency, the Nominated Supervisor on premises calls either:

- Landline 000
- Mobile 112

Stating name, address of the service and the nearest cross street. STEP

FOUR

Delegated first aid person collects the emergency pack, mobile phone, emergency contact lists, staffs sign in sheets and children's attendance records (there may need to be a delegated first aid person for each room of the education and care service).

STEP FIVE

Check attendance rolls. If a person is missing, advise the Nominated Supervisor as soon as possible.

STEP SIX

All educators and staff support and supervise children's wellbeing until the situation is resolved.

STEP SEVEN

Delegated first aid person administers first aid if necessary. STEP

EIGHT

From the assembly point, the Nominated Supervisor continues to liaise with emergency services and other relevant agencies.

STEP NINE

Delegated communications person contacts families or emergency contacts to notify them of the emergency. If advised, arrange for children's collection.

STEP TEN

Remain in lockdown until advised of the all clear by emergency services.

When and how to ring an emergency service:

To contact emergency services dial 000 from landlines or 112 from mobile phones. Be prepared for the information they may ask you by having the following information ready:

- A contact phone number
- Your name and the education and care service name;
- Your location know your street address and the nearest cross road;
- Note any specific landmarks;
- The exact location of the emergency within your service e.g. in the backyard;
- Best entrance to use;
- A brief description of the emergency; and
- The name of the person who will meet the emergency services

Power Cuts

In the event of power failure the Nominated Supervisor should immediately try to determine if the failure is based at the centre or whether it covers a larger area.

The following procedures will be taken:

- Contact Facilities/Maintenance and the Centre Area Manager, to inform them of the power failure.
- Head office to contact Power Company to determine the extent of loss and when power will be restored
- ➤ Children will remain inside if fallen power lines are near the centre

 If the power cut is expected to continue for some time then contact parent/ guardians to
 collect children. Children should be comforted and reassured. An SIO1 form must be
 submitted to the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of the power outage occurring
 resulting in the centre having to close www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-agenda-it-system
 - If the problem is within the centre, Head office will call an Electrician and arrange for the problem to be fixed.

Water Cuts

In the event of water cuts the Nominated Supervisor should immediately contact the Sydney Water board and try to determine if the cuts are based at the centre or whether it covers a larger area.

The following procedures will be taken:

- Contact Head office and the Centre Area Manager.
- > If the water cut is expected to be long term please notify Head office and your Area

- Manager.
- If the water cut is expected to continue for some time, contact parent/ guardians to collect children.
- Notify the Regulatory Authority and submit an NL01 form via NQA ITS www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-agenda-it-system within 24 hours of the event occurring.

Emergency packs

Emergency packs should be checked to ensure there are adequate and replenished supplies available should an emergency occur. Schedule monthly checks of emergency packs as part of the audit process for your first aid kit.

Emergency pack contents guide:

- A fully stocked portable first aid kit
- A site plan identifying exits from the building, safe spaces to shelter and assembly points
- Asthma inhalers, auto adrenalin injection devices and / or other emergency medications required by children and staff
- Bottled water and plastic cups
- Packet of biscuits or an easily transported snack
- Spare nappies, gloves, wipes, plastic bags and tissues
- Sunscreen
- Portable emergency contact sheet (laminated)
- A fully charged, working mobile phone
- A copy of the evacuation plan and procedure
- Some books or resources to entertain children (only if possible)

Sources:

- Community Child Care Cooperative
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- ACECQA www.acecqa.gov.au

2.17D Lockdown Procedure

Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person in Charge's Role:

• Sound the Air Horn **3 times** and makes the following announcement (PA system can also be used)

"This is a lockdown"

"This is not a fire drill"

"Everyone is to stay in the classrooms, remain seated, keep calm and quiet"

- Call 000 for emergency services
- If safe, accompany/direct emergency services to the location of the emergency
- After official declaration from police officer that the lockdown is over and service is no longer at risk, sound the air horn for 5 seconds or use PA to make following announcement:

"The Lock Down has now ended. Everyone follow me and the educators in an orderly manner".

• Complete the written record of the lockdown that occurred using Lockdown Practice Form.

Role of Educators:

- Close and lock all exterior doors and entrances.
- Children who are outdoors will be directed to immediately return to the classroom.
- Immediately lock all doors and windows, keeping all children inside one room on each level, and in a calm and controlled situation (e.g. reading stories)
- Educators do not need to take children across each level unless directed, or if the emergency is on that level.
- Staff need to record the names of children in the classroom and compare these names to classroom roll calls (if possible to access). Any missing and/or extra children are noted.
 Details are provided to police or emergency services department at the earliest opportunity.
- Only authorised persons should be allowed access to the service premises during lockdown i.e. Police, Fire brigade and/or Ambulance.
- Staff to remain in classroom on their designated level with children until they receive official notification from authorised person.

ANNEXURE "E"

2.19 - Sun Protection Policy

This Sun Protection Policy provides guidelines to:

- Ensure all children, educators and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- Ensure all children, educators and staff are well protected from too much UV exposure by
 using a combination of sun protection measures during the daily local sun protection times
 (issued whenever UV levels are 3 and above).
- Ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for children, educators and staff.
- Ensure children are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills.
- Support duty of care and regulatory requirements.
- Support appropriate WHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for educators, staff and visitors.

Rationale

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for developing skin cancer later in life. By implementing a best-practice Sun Protection Policy and practices, the childcare centre can help protect staff, educators and children from UV radiation and teach children good sun protection habits from an early age.

Legislation and Standards

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010:

Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

Regulation 100 - Risk assessment for excursions

Regulation 113 – Outdoor space-natural environment

Regulation 114 – Outdoor space-shade

Regulation 168 – Policies and procedures

(2)(a)(ii) – Sun protection

Procedures

To assist with the implementation of this policy, educators and children are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free SunSmart app or at www.sunsmartnsw.com.au

The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times (issued whenever UV levels are 3 and above), typically from September to the end of April in New South Wales.

Where possible, active, outdoor sun safe play is encouraged throughout the day.

SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants. All babies under 12 months are kept out of direct sun during the sun protection times (when UV levels are three and above).

Practices

Scheduling outdoor activities (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

The childcare centre will ensure that outdoor activity times and sun protection practices are inclusive of the below:

October - March:

Minimise outdoor activity between 11am and 3pm (daylight saving time). Sun protection practices are required at all times when outside.

April - September:

Outdoor activity can be planned at any time of the day. Sun protection practices are required between 10am and 2pm except in June and July when the UV Index is mostly below 3.

All sun protection measures will be considered when planning excursions and all events held at the service.

Seek shade (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

Management makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area particularly in high-use areas.

All outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas. Play activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.

The childcare centre will provide and maintain adequate shade for outdoor play. Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade. Regular shade assessments should be conducted to monitor existing shade structures and assist in planning for additional shade

Children are encouraged to choose and use available areas of shade when outside.

Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to choose a shady play space or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Slap on a hat (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

Staff, educators and children are required to wear sun-safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears.

Sun-safe hats include:

- bucket hats with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm)
- broad-brimmed hats with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm)
- legionnaire style hats.

Please note: Baseball caps or visors are not sun-safe hats.

Children without a sun-safe hat are required to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, balcony or indoors) or will be provided with a spare hat.

Clothing (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

Staff, educators and children are required to wear sun-safe clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible. This includes wearing:

- loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline
- longer style skirts, shorts and trousers.

Please note: Midriff, crop or singlet tops are not sun-safe clothing and are not permitted to be worn at any time at Childcare Centre Academy.

Children without sun-safe clothing are required to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or will be provided with spare clothing.

Sunscreen (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

Staff, educators and children are required to apply at least SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sun screen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours. Sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry date is monitored.

To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from 2 years of age are given opportunities and encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff.

Babies (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

Babies under 12 months should not be exposed to direct sunlight and are to remain in full shade when outside. They are required to wear sun-safe hats and clothing, and small amounts of SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen suitable for babies may be applied to their exposed skin.

Role Modelling (Quality Area 5: Relationships with children)

Staff and educators are required to act as role models and demonstrate sun-safe behaviour by:

- wearing a sun-safe hat, clothing and sunscreen, and using shade
- wearing sunglasses (optional) that comply with the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4)
- encouraging families and visitors to role model positive sun-safe behaviour when at the service.

Education and Information (Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice. Quality Area

5: Relationships with children. Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and Communities)

Services are required to incorporate sun protection information regularly into learning programs and communicate information to staff, educators, families and visitors. Further information is available from the Cancer Council NSW website www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart.

Policy Availability (Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities.

Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management).

The Sun Protection Policy, updates and requirements will be made available to staff, educators, families and visitors.

Educators, staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through family newsletters, staff and parent handbooks, noticeboards and pamphlets.

When enrolling their child, families are:

- informed of the service's Sun Protection policy
- asked to provide a suitable sun protective hat and sun safe clothing
- required to give permission for educators to apply sunscreen to their child
- encouraged to use SunSmart measures themselves when at the service.

Review (Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management)

Management, staff and educators will regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Protection Policy.

The childcare centre's Sun Protection Policy will be updated and submitted to Cancer Council NSW every two years to maintain SunSmart status.

Next policy review: June 2017

Sources:

www.sunsmart.com.au

www.cancercouncil.com.au

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.