

3.11 Escorting Children Policy

The service seeks to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of children and educators by ensuring that appropriate procedures are implemented with regards to escorting children between the service, school and/or any other designated activity/venue.

The service also acknowledges that, from time to time, families may arrange for their child to participate in extra-curricular activities whilst enrolled at their SAC program. Any arrangements for escorting to and/or collection from these activities will be in accordance with this policy.



Relevant Laws and other Provisions

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011*
- *Family and Child Guardian Act 2014*
- *Duty of Care*
- *National Quality Standard 6.1 Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role; 2.2 Each child is protected*
- *Policies: 2.3 – Educator Ratios, 3.5 – Excursions, 3.8 – Extra-curricular Activities, 9.3 – Communication with Families.*



Procedures

The service will seek written permission from a parent/carer (or authorised nominee) for any activity requiring their child/ren to be escorted to/from the service's premises, including for the purposes of excursions (see 3.5.1 and 3.8.1).

If the excursion/outing is a regular event, written permission is only required to be obtained once in a 12-month period, unless there is notable change (i.e., building works).

Parent/carer permission shall be obtained prior to the planned excursion or activity. Information included as part of the parent's permission will include, but not be limited to:

- *Reason for excursion or planned activity;*
- *Date, time and description of planned activity;*
- *Method of transport and proposed travel time; and*
- *Ratio of educators to the number of children attending.*

The service shall develop a risk assessment and implement a management plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and educators during excursions. All educators will need to read and sign off on risk assessments prior to excursions.

The service shall maintain appropriate educator to child ratios for excursions and/or activities where children are required to be escorted to a venue or place that is outside of the area approved for service use.

The service shall ensure confidential storage and maintenance of parent/ permission relating to excursions and/or escorting of children.

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2018	August 2018	September 2021	September 2021
		June 2022	August 2022

--	--	--	--