

8.5 Volunteers Policy

Volunteers are a valued and integral part of the service and are managed in a consistent and professional manner, in accordance with the other policies of the service which apply to employees, modified only as necessary to reflect the voluntary nature of the role.

For the purpose of this policy, volunteers also refer to students who are unpaid and volunteering for skill/knowledge acquisition.



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*
- *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and Regulations 2011*
- *Duty of Care*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 4 – Staffing Arrangements; 7.2 Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organizational culture and professional learning community*
- *Policies: 3.3 – Educators Practice, 8.1 – Role and Expectations of Educators, 8.10 – Educator Orientation and Induction, 10.1 – Quality Compliance, 10.9 – Risk Management and Compliance.*



Procedures

All procedures of the service which are applicable to employees, apply to volunteers except where expressly provided otherwise, or with such necessary modifications to reflect the voluntary nature of the role.

Volunteers must hold a current Blue Card before they begin volunteering at the service. Certified copies of their Suitability Card and/or Positive Notice will be kept on file for all volunteers who volunteer at the service. A Verification to Authorise Blue Card form will be completed by the volunteer.

Volunteer workers may be counted towards the educator to child ratios for the service provided they meet the qualification requirements. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be fully supervised. Risk assessments will be conducted, as necessary, when utilising volunteers.

An induction process, including volunteer handbook, will be given to provide an opportunity to help volunteers understand:

- The service's commitment to an environment which is safe and friendly to children;
- The service's policies, procedures and code of conduct;
- Procedures to follow when harm is suspected or disclosed;
- Their rights and responsibilities;
- What is expected of them in their role;
- The boundaries of their roles;
- The roles of key people in the service;
- What to expect if there is an allegation of harm made against them or to them;
- Reporting procedures; and
- Grievance procedures..

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2018	August 2018	July 2021	November 2021
		10.05.2024	17.06.2024