

PURPOSE



This policy will provide guidelines to ensure:

- the adequate supervision of all enrolled children is maintained at all times.
- the provision of a safe and secure environment for all children at South Kingsville Pre School .



POLICY STATEMENT

South Kingsville Pre School is committed to:

- providing appropriate supervision for all enrolled children in all aspects of the service’s program that is reflective of the children’s needs, abilities, age and circumstances
- ensuring all children are directly and actively supervised by educators employed or engaged by South Kingsville Pre School
- maintaining a duty of care (*refer to Definitions*) to all children at South Kingsville Pre School
- ensuring there is an understanding of the shared legal responsibility and accountability between, and a commitment by, all persons to implement the procedures and practices outlined in this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of South Kingsville Pre School including during offsite excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
Complying with the legislated ECT/educator-to-child ratios at all times (<i>National Law: Sections 169</i>) (<i>Regulations 123</i>)	✓	✓	✓		

Counting only those educators who are working directly with children at the service in the educator-to-child ratios <i>(Regulation 122)</i>	√	√	√		
Keeping a record of ECT/educators working directly with children <i>(Regulation 151)</i>	√	√			
Ensuring any educator under the age of 18 is not left to supervise children on their own <i>(Regulation 120)</i>	√	√	√		
Ensuring an unauthorised person is under the direct supervision of an ECT/educator whilst at the service <i>(National Law: Section 170 (2))</i>	√	√	√		
Ensuring, in addition to ratio requirements, that a minimum of two educators are rostered on duty at all times children are in attendance at the service	√	√	√		
Ensuring that children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) by being in sight and/or hearing of an educator at all times; including during eating, toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines <i>(National Law: Section 165 (1), (2))</i>	√	√	√		
Considering the design and arrangement of the service environment to support active supervision <i>(Regulation 115)</i> . This may be supported by a supervision plan (<i>refer to Attachment 1</i>)	√	√	√		
Managing potential risk of abuse or harm to each child, including fulfilling duty of care (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) and legal obligations to protect children and prevent any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm (<i>refer to Child Safe Environment Policy</i>)	√	√	√		√
Identifying high-risk activities, including excursions (<i>refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy, Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy and Water Safety Policy</i>), through a risk management process, and implementing strategies to improve children's safety e.g. Considering increasing adult-to-child ratios in line with the identified risks <i>(Regulation 100, 101, 102B, 102C)</i>	√	√	√		
Ensuring supervision standards are maintained during ECT/educator breaks, including during lunch breaks	√	√	√		
Providing safe spaces for children, which allow for adequate supervision, and which include safe fall zones, good traffic flow, maintenance of buildings and equipment, and minimising trip hazards	√	√	√		
Implementing induction procedures to inform casual and relief staff about the supervision strategies outlined in this policy	√	√			√

<p>Notifying the Regulatory Authority (DET) within 24 hours of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a serious incident (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) occurring at the service, including when a child appears to be missing or cannot be accounted for (<i>National Law: Section 174(2)(a), (Regulations 176(2)(a)(ii)</i>) a complaint alleging that the health, safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised or that the law has been breached (<i>National Law: Section 174(2)(b), (Regulations 175(2)(c), 176(2)(b)</i>) 	√	√			
<p>Notifying parents/guardians of a serious incident (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) involving their child as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after the occurrence (<i>Regulation 86, 87 (3)(e)</i>)</p>	√	√	√		
<p>Reporting notifiable incidents (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) to Worksafe Victoria</p>	√	√			
<p>Evaluating supervision procedures regularly</p>	√	√	√		
<p>Complying with the service's <i>Excursions and Service Events, Road Safety and Safe Transport and Water Safety Policy</i></p>	√	√	√	√	√
<p>Identifying the potential for the risks of abuse or harm to each child, including fulfilling duty of care (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) and legal obligations to protect children and prevent any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm</p>	√	√	√		
<p>Providing support to ECT/educators when children with challenging behaviours or additional leads are involved</p>	√	√			
<p>Ensuring that all children are accounted for, including by referring to attendance records (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) at various times throughout the day, e.g. during indoor/outdoor programs</p>		√	√		
<p>Adjusting supervision strategies to suit the service environment, educator skills, and age mix, dynamics and size of the group of children being supervised and the activities being undertaken</p>	√	√	√		
<p>Maintaining a duty of care to children at all times (including when the child is on the premises but not signed into or signed out of the care of the service and the parent/guardian or person delivering or collecting the child is responsible for supervising that child) (<i>Regulation 99</i>)</p>		√	√	√	
<p>Balancing supervision requirements with children's needs for privacy and independence</p>		√	√		
<p>Communicating with other educators regularly to ensure adequate supervision at all times</p>		√	√		
<p>Adhering to the <i>Child Sage Environment Policy</i></p>	√	√	√	√	√

Ensuring doors and gates are closed at all times to prevent children from leaving the service unaccompanied or from accessing unsupervised/unsafe areas of the service	√	√	√	√	√
Deciding when to interrupt and redirect children's play to ensure safety at all times		√	√		√
Identifying opportunities to support and extend children's learning while also recognising their need to play without adult intervention		√	√		√
Conducting daily safety checks of the environment to assess safety and to remove hazards		√	√		
Supervising/being aware of children's daily arrival and departure from the service and being aware of the person who has authority to collect the child (<i>refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy</i>)		√	√	√	
Supervising their own child/ren before signing them into the program and after they have signed them out of the program				√	
Enabling ECT/educators to supervise children at all times e.g. by making arrangements to speak with educators at a mutually suitable time				√	
BOLD tick √ indicates legislation requirement					



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Supervision is essential in ensuring that children's safety is protected in the service environment. Children have a right to be protected from potential hazards and dangers posed by products, plants, objects, animals and people in the immediate and wider environment.

Supervision is an integral part of the care and education of children and requires staff members to make ongoing assessments of the child and the activities in which they are engaged; utilising range of skills such as positioning and peripheral vision. Active supervision assists in the development of positive relationships between educators, children and their families, and informs ongoing assessment and future planning. Adequate supervision (*refer to Definitions*) requires teamwork and good communication between educators.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Safe Standards, Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
- Worker Screening Act 2020

- Worker Screening Regulations 2021 (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the *Definitions* file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Kidsafe: www.kidsafe.com.au
- The Royal Children's Hospital Community Information team (formerly Safety Centre) provides information on safety promotion and injury prevention: www.rch.org.au.
- WorkSafe Victoria: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au
- Guide to the National Quality Framework (ACECQA): <http://acecqa.gov.au/>
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (ACECQA): <http://acecqa.gov.au/>

RELATED POLICIES

- Administration of First Aid
- Child Safe Environment
- Complaints and Grievances
- Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Delivery and Collection of Children

- Excursions and Service Events
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Interactions with Children
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Relaxation and Sleep
- Staffing
- Water Safety

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:



- encourage feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- record and monitor complaints and incidents in relation to the supervision of children and amend the policy and procedures as required
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk.



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Supervision risk management template



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of South Kingsville Pre School on 04/04/2022.

REVIEW DATE: 04/04/2024



Topic	Benefit	Risk	Risk Evaluation			Risk Controls			Further Risk Treatments
					Risk Level <i>(i.e. without risk controls)</i>	How will we manage the risk	Estimated Effectiveness of our Strategies <i>(i.e. do the proposed management strategies reduce the likelihood of the risk?)</i>	New Risk Level <i>(i.e. with risk controls in place)</i>	Further action needed Opportunities for improvement
Supervision of Children and students/volunteers	Child Safety Supervision of students/volunteers	Harm to Children	Child to escape	Likely	High	<p>Position inside furniture in such a way that children are able to be seen.</p> <p>Play structures, the tunnel, and the setup of quiet areas in the playground. Being aware of these spaces. Educators to be aware of their positioning.</p> <p>In wet weather slippery surfaces. Educate and remind children of the hazards of slipping over.</p> <p>Maintain staff ratios.</p>	Yes	Low	

						<p>Setting up quiet/active learning spaces during indoor/outdoor programs.</p> <p>Being aware of any potential hazards. Remove any broken materials.</p> <p>Having a set routine for arrival and departure of children.</p>			
Toilet renovation:	Additional toilets per child ratio.	Utilising an outside porta loo.	<p>Child falls and trips in outside porta loo if unsupervised and an educator not being aware.</p> <p>Child to leave porta loo and commence playing in the playground unsupervised.</p> <p>If child left unsupervised – child could escape playground.</p>	Likely	High	<p>Communicate risk minimisation to staff.</p> <p>Staff/relievers are aware of works and supervision requirements for toilets.</p> <p>Supervising the child to enter and leave the porta loo. If a child needs to leave the inside playroom to access the outside toilet an educator to supervise.</p> <p>Head counts on a regular basis</p>	.Yes	low	
Renovation to Occasional Care room: Outdoor play space	Increase space to allow the kindergarten to utilise the space to increase 3 year old hours	Safety barrier built	There will be 2 gates for the construction team to go through. If	Likely	High	<p>Communicate risk minimisation to staff.</p> <p>Staff/volunteers/students are aware of works and risks.</p> <p>There will be no hidden areas in the playground from the wall.</p>	Yes	Low	

			not diligent in shutting – child escapes.			Diligence in supervision as a change in the environment. Signs placed on gates highlighting gates to be shut at all the times. Contractors & project managers aware and reminded during meetings.			
Renovation to Occasional Care room: Child care educators and children accessing the outside playground via the kindergarten room	Increase space to allow the kindergarten to utilise the space to increase 3 year old hours	Children from the occasional care commence playing in the kindergarten room and kindergarten children exiting with the occasional care children	Non counted children. Mix up of children.	Likely	High	Communication between the kindergarten educators and the occasional care educators of when their children will be accessing and exiting the playground. Supervision of when the occasional care will be traversing through the kindergarten room. Time schedule of who will be utilising the yard. Head count to ensure all children are with their correct group.	Yes	Low	

			Consequences				
			1 – Insignificant Dealt with by in-house first aid, etc	2 – Minor Medical help needed. Treatment by medical professional/hospital outpatient, etc	3 – Moderate Significant non-permanent injury. Overnight hospitalisation (inpatient)	4 – Major Extensive permanent injury (eg loss of finger/s) Extended hospitalisation	5 – Catastrophic Death. Permanent disabling injury (eg blindness, loss of hand/s, quadriplegia)
Likelihood		ALMOST CERTAIN TO OCCUR IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES	Moderate (M)	High (H)	High (H)	Extreme (X)	Extreme (X)
	Likely	LIKELY TO OCCUR FREQUENTLY	Moderate (M)	Moderate (M)	High (H)	Extreme (X)	Extreme (X)
	Possible	POSSIBLE AND LIKELY TO OCCUR AT SOME TIME	Low (L)	Moderate(M)	High (H)	High (H)	Extreme (X)
	Unlikely	Unlikely to occur but could happen	Low (L)	Low (L)	Moderate(M)	High (H)	High (H)
	Rare	May occur but only in rare and exceptional circumstances	Low (L)	Low (L)	Low (L)	Moderate (M)	High (H)

