

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT (Providing a Child Safe Environment)

POLICY STATEMENT

Our Service provides an environment that ensures the safety, health and wellbeing of children at all times. We will provide a safe and secure outdoor environment where children have access to a variety of activities and are encouraged to participate in them.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Regulations	82, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 115, 168
National Quality Standard	QA2, QA3, QA7
Other Service Policies/Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing policy• Health & Safety policies• Providing a Child Safe Environment policies
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My Time, Our Place• Work Health & Safety Act 2011• Network of Community Activities Factsheet – ‘Encouraging Children Outdoors’

PROCEDURE

- The outdoor environment provides each child with at least 7 square metres of unencumbered outdoor space in compliance with National Regulation 108.
- The outdoor space will be inspected daily for any obstacles or dangerous items and the hazard check will be recorded.
- Any hazardous items will be disposed of in a safe and careful manner prior to the children playing in the area.
- The outdoor space will be set up in a variety of ways to encourage participation and exploration and experiences with the natural environment.
- Areas will be made available where children can play in large or small groups or by themselves.
- Supervision should be properly maintained. Children are only to play in areas that are clearly visible to educators, and where child/educator ratios are maintained.
- Clear boundaries shall be set and enforced with bright orange coloured cones.
- Children will have safe, easy access to toileting facilities as well as access to fresh water.
- When it is necessary to go outside the boundaries or line of supervision, an educator must accompany children.

- Adequate shade via trees and coverings will be maintained.
- As far as possible, activities will be set up in shaded areas.
- Use of other outdoor venues will be considered where access to the area is safe, adequate supervision can be maintained, the area is considered of value to the children's physical development and personal comfort, and where adequate child:educator ratios can be maintained.
- Various climatic conditions will be taken into account when utilising the outdoor space. Undercover areas will be made available to all children when utilising the outdoor environment in cases of wet weather, extreme heat or smoke. Educators and children will be required to demonstrate appropriate sun protection in compliance with the Sun Protection policy.
- The outdoor area will be comprised of both fixed and moveable equipment. The service will provide storage for outdoor equipment and ensure equipment is made available to children during allocated outdoor play.
- Where possible, the outdoor area should be made easily accessible for children with varying mobility.