

# EQUIPMENT/TOYS SAFETY POLICY

All children benefit from an environment that is focused on their individual interests, needs and abilities. Glenelg Community Child Care Centre believes that environments that support learning are vibrant and flexible spaces that are responsive to the interests and abilities of each child. Choosing equipment and toys that can be used in multiple ways allows the environment to be regularly and readily rearranged or adjusted to provide additional interest, variety and challenge. A flexible environment supports the holistic way children learn. Children's safety when using equipment is also of paramount importance. The Education and Care Services National Regulations set out specific requirements in regard to the learning environment and equipment to be provided in the education and care setting.

## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

QUALITY AREA 3: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
3.1.1	Fit for Purpose	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
3.1.2	Upkeep	Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
105	Furniture, materials and equipment
112	Nappy change facilities
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures must be followed
174	Time to notify certain circumstances to the Regulatory Authority
176	Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority

## RELATED POLICIES

Child Safe Environment Policy	Physical Environment Policy
Health and Safety Policy	Supervision Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy	Work Health and Safety Policy

## PURPOSE

The service will ensure a safe and stimulating play environment for children through the provision of appropriate play equipment and materials that facilitate a wide range of learning and leisure opportunities that are suitable for the developmental stages of each age group of enrolled children. Resources and equipment will support the individual needs of children with additional care needs as well as culturally inclusive resources to stimulate children's interest, enjoyment, fun and learning.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to management, the approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, staff, families, visitors (including contractors) and children of the Service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

All equipment and toys purchased for the service will meet Australian Standards and be appropriate to the developmental stages, interests and cultures of the children enrolled in Glenelg CCCC. Resources and equipment will be chosen with intent, safety and should foster positive relationships, play and development between children support inclusion and diversity.

### Management and Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will ensure:

All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the Maintenance of a Safe Environment Policy.

There will be sufficient equipment for the number of children enrolled to:

- avoid overcrowding and ensure that children do not have to wait for long periods to participate;
- minimise disputes over who will use resources, materials and equipment;
- engage children's interests;
- extend their learning; and
- provide for all children's ages and abilities.

The equipment and material needed to facilitate learning and leisure opportunities for children will be identified as part of the planning process and provided by the service for the carrying out of the education and care program.

Specific equipment and other resources will be obtained to support the inclusion of children with additional needs.

Equipment that encourages and supports children's physical activity will be readily available for children to use independently or in groups, in both spontaneous and planned activities.

Children will be carefully introduced to new toys and pieces of equipment and taught to use equipment appropriately. Children using play equipment will be supervised effectively to ensure their safety when using equipment. Educators will undertake risk assessments where new toys or equipment has associated risks. Equipment that should only be used under supervision will be stored in a safe place that can only be accessed with adult supervision.

How children use the equipment, the value of equipment in supporting children's learning and development, and spontaneous play, will be assessed within the service's ongoing cycle of planning and critical reflection.

Purchasing of equipment will take into consideration updated practices and research within the sector.

Equipment will be maintained and monitored for updating and cleaning.

Cots and bedding will be maintained in a way which ensures children are safe during sleep.

Equipment or toys purchased by staff will be pre-approved by management in order for staff to receive reimbursement.

Toys or equipment brought into the service by staff must be safe and adhere to risk assessment processes.

## Nominated Supervisor and Educators will:

Educators and the nominated supervisor/coordinator will determine which equipment is most appropriate taking into account:

- previous assessments of equipment use;
- durability and ease of maintenance;
- benefit to the children's program;
- flexibility to create interesting and challenging environments for children;
- cultural value;
- opportunities for children to use the equipment in a variety of ways;
- ability to stimulate children's curiosity;
- ability to encourage children to explore, discover and experiment;
- environmental impact
- cost

Educator/staff input on compiling a prioritised list of items of equipment will be sought at least twice a year.

An up to date inventory of toys and equipment will be kept at the service. The nominated supervisor/coordinator or educator will be responsible for the purchase of new items of equipment. If large/expensive items of equipment are requested the approved provider will determine the service's budget limitations. All equipment purchased for the service will be within budget limitations.

### Sources

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. (2009) *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*.

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Australian Standards for equipment safety Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).

Kidsafe SA Inc.

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

## REVIEW

**Date:** September 2024

**Next review date:** September 2025