

E-5 Excursions

Epping Heights OSHC.

NQS

QA. 1.1.1	Approved learning framework.
QA. 1.1.2	Child-centred.
QA. 2.2	Safety.
QA. 4.1	Staffing arrangements.
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of educators.
QA. 6.1	Supportive relationships with families.
QA. 6.1.1	Engagement with the service.
QA. 7.1	Governance.
QA.7.1.2	Management systems.
QA. 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities.
QA. 7.2.2	Educational leadership.

National Regulations

Reg. 73	Educational program
Reg. 89	First aid kits
Reg. 99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
Reg. 100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
Reg. 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
Reg. 102	Authorisation for excursions
Reg. 102B	Transport risk assessment must be conducted before service transports child
Reg. 102C	Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service
Reg.102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
Reg. 123(1)(d)	For children over preschool age, 1 educator to 15 children
Reg. 166	Children not to be alone with visitors
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
Reg. 170	Policies and procedures to be followed

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children feel safe, secure, and supported
LO. 2	Children are connected with and contribute to their world
LO. 4	Children are confident and involved learners
	Children develop dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
	Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies, and natural and processed materials

Policy Statement

We believe that excursions are an essential part of the Centre's program as they provide variety and an opportunity to expand a child's experience, explore different environments and learn new activities. An authorised person's permission will be sought for all excursions. Children on excursions will be ensured proper supervision and care, for the full duration of the excursion. All staff/child ratios will be maintained according to best practice in the childcare field.

Related Policies

- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-4: Enrolment
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy A-10: Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-10: Volunteers/Students/Visitors
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-11: Staff Child Ratio
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-1: Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-6: Transportation
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-7: Animals
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-8: Sun Protection
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-9: Emergency Procedures
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-10: First Aid
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-11: Management of Incident, Injury and Trauma
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-15: Allergies
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D- 16: Asthma
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-17: Anaphylaxis
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-20: Medication
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy E-7: Water Safety

Procedure

Planning

Excursions will be planned taking into account children's ages, suggestions, interests, and developmental abilities. Children's safety will always be first priority.

All planned excursions will be subject to a risk assessment to identify and assess risks that the excursion may pose to the safety, health and wellbeing of any child being taken on the excursion and specify how the identified risks will be managed and minimised, as per Regulation 101. Risk Assessments will be undertaken through a visit to the venue by a Senior Staff Member. A risk assessment must consider:

- The pick-up location and destination
- the proposed route and destination for the excursion
- estimated departure and arrival times
- requirements for seatbelts or safety restraints in NSW have been met
- the process for entering and exiting the Centre
- procedures for embarking and disembarking the means of transport, including how each child is to be accounted for
- any water hazards

- any risks associated with water-based activities
- the transport to and from the proposed destination for the excursion
- the expected number of adults and children involved in the excursion
- given the risks posed by the excursion, the number of educators or other responsible adults that is appropriate to provide supervision and whether any adults with specialised skills are required (e.g. life-saving skills)
- the proposed activities
- the proposed duration of the excursion
- the items that should be taken on the excursion (e.g. a mobile phone and a list of emergency contact numbers for children on the excursion).

Educators, when possible, are to visit or be familiar with a venue before undertaking the excursion to ensure it is suitable, safe, and accessible by all. Arrangements will be made with the venue when special requirements are needed, where necessary. The venue will be assessed to determine whether children with special needs can be accommodated, where applicable.

When planning an excursion, alternative arrangements will be made for adverse weather conditions. Prior to departing on an excursion, educators must consider wet weather, cold or hot weather or extreme weather conditions.

Authorisation and Notification

Under regulation 102, the approved provider and nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that a child being educated and cared for by the service is not taken outside the education and care service premises on an excursion unless written authorisation has been provided. The authorisation must be given by a parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record as able to authorise the taking of the child outside the education and care service premises by an educator. The authorisation must state:

- the child's name
- the reason the child is to be taken outside the premises
- the reason the child is to be transported
- the date the child is to be taken on the excursion (unless the authorisation is for a regular outing)
- a description of the proposed pick-up location and destination
- the method of transport to be used for the excursion;
- requirements for seatbelt or safety restraints in NSW have been met
- the proposed activities to be undertaken by the child during the excursion
- the period of time the child is likely to be transported
- the period the child will be away from the premises
- the anticipated number of children likely to be attending the excursion
- the anticipated ratio of educators attending the excursion to the anticipated number of children attending the excursion
- the anticipated number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children on the excursion
- that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the service
- that written policies and procedures for transporting children are available at the Centre.

If the excursion is a regular outing, the authorisation is only required to be obtained once in a 12 month period.

The Responsible person on duty will take the centre mobile phone to ensure the staff and children can always be contacted. The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person on duty will ensure the mobile phone used is fully charged.

Educator Ratios and Supervision

There will be no supervision at the Centre as planned excursions are compulsory.

A minimum of two educators will be present on all excursions.

The following educator/child ratios will be met at all times (see C-11 Staff: Child Ratio Policy)

- We will aim to meet a ratio of 10 children to 1 educator for excursions
- There will be a maximum of 5 children to 1 educator for swimming

A Certified Supervisor will have overall responsibility for the excursion. It is their responsibility to maintain head counts and take the roll at appropriate times and regular intervals. All educators will be responsible for adequate supervision.

Responsible adult volunteers over the age of 18 may be used to augment educator/child ratios on excursions. Parents may also be invited to assist.

Swimming excursions will only be undertaken with children in a well-supervised municipal pool or water park (see E-7 Water Safety Policy). Adequate supervision will be maintained at all times. Where a swimming excursion is to be undertaken, Educators will request the swimming ability of all children attending via the permission slip. Appropriate alternate and safe activities will be provided for children who are non-swimmers, where possible. Dams, rivers, and beaches will be avoided for swimming purposes because of the dangers that they present.

Transportation

All transport used for excursions will comply with the Roads and Maritime Services Standards. The D-6 Transportation Policy will apply in relation to travelling to and from any venue.

Both public and/or private modes of transportation may be used. Details will be outlined on the relevant authorisations and the risk assessment will ensure appropriate hazards and controls are identified for the mode of transport used. Consideration will be given to children with special needs, where applicable.

Educators, volunteers, and parents attending an excursion will be made aware of the Transportation Policy and procedures for supervising children while travelling on public or

private transport or on walking excursions. Particular attention will be made to assisting children when boarding or alighting from public transport and when crossing roads or in crowded areas.

While on the Excursion

No changes to the excursion itinerary will be made unless it is in the best interest of the children's safety and wellbeing. This will be decided only by the Responsible Person on Duty.

Information and equipment to be taken on the excursion will include:

- A list of all children on the excursion, with relevant personal details and parent contact numbers
- A list of all educators and contact details
- Information on any relevant medical conditions or special needs/requirements along with any required medication (i.e. asthma puffers etc)
- A risk assessment identifying Emergency Procedures and assembly points of the venue.
- A fully stocked and up-to-date portable First Aid Kit
- Spare drinking water, if available at the venue
- A mobile phone and charger, with internet capability to allow for access to important information, such as Educator Emergency Contact details, Child Authorised Nominees etc.

All children will be instructed regarding behaviour on the excursion and what to do if they are separated from the group.

Centre policies will be implemented as required on excursions.

Vacation Care Bookings

The service's Vacation Care program is generally open for bookings between week 5 & week 7 of the school term. The open date is usually advertised for families in Centre correspondence prior at the discretion of the Centre Director/Educational Leader.

Vacation care bookings are able to be made via the Centre Webserver until such a time as the day is fully booked, or the cut off date for changes to bookings is reached. The cut off date for changes to bookings is generally between 1-2 weeks before the commencement of the holiday period dependant on extraneous factors which may impact this (eg: lack of booking numbers, centre closures, infectious diseases etc). The cut-off date is ascertained at the discretion of the Centre Director/Educational leader. Bookings may not be possible after the cut off date, and parents are encouraged to contact the centre via email to check availability. Bookings made after the cut-off date are charged at a casual rate (usually + \$5) as specified in the annual fee schedule.

After the cut-off period, families are charged for all bookings that have been made regardless of attendance. If prior notice is given, swapping days throughout the Vacation

Care period can occur. The cost of the more expensive day is what should be charged in the event of a swap.

All booking changes that are made by the Centre staff should be specified in writing from the parent.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances (eg: lockdown situations, inclement weather), the Centre reserves the right to change the activity for the day to another event of similar cost without notice to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and educators involved. These days are still chargeable, and no cancellations are permitted.

Vacation Care is invoiced to families at the conclusion of the Vacation Care period.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- Roads and Maritime Service NSW

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