

B-7 Outdoor Environment

Epping Heights OSHC.

NQS

QA. 2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort.
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures.
QA. 2.1.3	Healthy lifestyle.
QA. 2.2	Safety
QA. 3.1.1	Fit for purpose.
QA. 3.1.2	Upkeep.
QA. 3.2	Use
QA. 3.2.1	Inclusive environment.
QA. 3.2.2	Resources support play-based learning.
QA. 3.2.3	Environmentally responsible.
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of educators
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.
QA. 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities.
QA. 7.2.1	Continuous improvement.

National Regulations

Reg. 82	Tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment
Reg. 104	Fencing
Reg. 108	Space requirements —outdoor space
Reg. 113	Outdoor space—natural environment
Reg. 114	Outdoor space—shade
Reg. 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children and young people feel safe, secure and supported
LO. 2	Children and young people are connected with and contribute to their world
	Children and young people become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
LO. 4	Children and young people are confident and involved learners
	Children and young people develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
	Children and young people resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

POLICY STATEMENT

We aim to provide both a safe and stimulating outdoor environment that allows flexibility and access to a variety of quiet, active, group and individual activities. We will ensure that we only enrol the number of children that can comfortably utilise the available space to engage in physical activities. We will provide an outdoor space which promotes investigation and respect for the natural environment.

RELATED POLICIES

- Epping Heights OSHC Policy B-1: Facility Management
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy B-2: Building Equipment Repairs and Maintenance
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy B-6: Indoor Environment
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy C-11: Educator Child Ratios
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-8: Sun Protection
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-26: Security
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-28: Workplace, Health and Safety
- Epping Heights OSHC Policy D-30: Supervision

PROCEDURE

The Centre will only enrol the number of children in the Centre that can comfortably use the available outdoor space and in accordance with the Educational and Care Services National Regulations (2011).

The outdoor area on school grounds is a smoke free environment and any persons seen smoking on the premises will be asked to vacate the area.

Preferably before a session starts the outdoor space will be set up in a variety of ways to encourage participation, exploration and experiences with the natural environment. This will allow for Educators to concentrate on supervision of the children. Areas for rest and relaxation should be made available.

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 and extreme heat. Children will be required to demonstrate appropriate sun protection in compliance with the Sun Protection Policy.

Children will have safe, easy access to toileting facilities as well as access to fresh water.

The outdoor area will be comprised of both fixed and moveable equipment. The Centre will provide storage for outdoor equipment and ensure equipment is made available to children during allocated outdoor play time.

The outdoor environment will promote interest and enjoyment of the natural environment and provide opportunities for unique play and learning as well as offer children opportunities for active, noisy and messy play on a large scale.

Where possible, the outdoor area should be made easily accessible for children with varying mobility.

Educators will ensure that children properly store their bags and that their bags and other items are not left in walkways or play areas. All items obstructing areas are to be removed and placed in the correct storage areas (see D-28: Workplace Health and Safety Policy).

A daily grounds check will be completed to ensure the area is safe for children prior to the children arriving at the service (see D-28: Workplace Health and Safety Policy).

Areas must be set up to ensure that proper supervision can be maintained at all times.

The outdoor area should have fencing or barriers to assist in securing the premises from vehicles and to deter unwanted visitors.

To ensure adequate supervision at all times, where possible, the indoor environment should open out to the outdoor environment with easy access for staff and children.

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 educator/child ratios can be maintained both indoors and outdoors.

SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Network of Community Activities Factsheet – 'Encouraging Children Outdoors'

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