

Staffing Arrangements Policy

Our Service aims to provide Educators and Nominated Supervisors who have the qualifications and experience to develop warm, nurturing, and respectful relationships with children. We are committed to ensuring that children’s health, safety, and wellbeing is protected at all times through providing appropriate and effective supervision according to legislated ratios and best practice. Our Educators, in collaboration with our Educational Leader, design and implement programs that support children’s participation and engagement, interests, learning, and development.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 4: STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS		
4.1	Staffing arrangements	Staffing arrangements enhance children’s learning and development.
4.1.1	Organisation of Educators	The organisation of Educators across the Service supports children's learning and development.
4.1.2	Continuity of staff	Every effort is made for children to experience continuity of Educators at the Service.
4.2	Professionalism	Management, Educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.
4.2.1	Professional collaboration	Management, Educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other’s strengths and skills.
4.2.2	Professional Standards	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

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RELATED POLICIES

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PURPOSE

To ensure our Service adheres to the National Education and Care Service Regulation we employ educators and staff in compliance with qualifications and ratio requirements.

SCOPE

This policy applies to staff, management, students, and volunteers at the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our Service will comply with the required number of educators to children, taking into consideration qualification requirements and experience, in order to meet National Regulations and Standards. Our Service will ensure that at least fifty per cent of Educators who are being counted towards the educator to child ratio must have, or be actively working towards, an approved diploma level qualification.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CENTRE BASED SERVICES WITH CHILDREN PRESCHOOL AGE OR UNDER

- Our Service will comply with the National Quality Framework and ensure 50 percent of Educators meet the relevant Diploma qualification requirement, or be actively working towards an approved diploma level education and care qualification.
- All other Educators are 'suitably qualified persons' who are required to have at least an approved certificate III level education and care qualification or be actively working towards their qualification.

Suitably qualified person' definition:

ACECQA determines the following qualifications as requirements for a 'suitably qualified person'

- An individual who is '*actively working towards*' an approved early childhood teaching qualification AND has completed at least 50 per cent of the qualification or holds an approved early childhood education and care diploma

Actively working towards' definition:

An Educator who is enrolled in a course for an approved Early Childhood qualification.

- The Educator is required to provide documentary evidence of their course, training plan and progress towards completion of the course.
- Individuals actively working towards an approved qualification may be counted towards qualification requirements as 'suitably qualified persons'.
- Our Service will communicate with the Educator's RTO to ensure the Educator successfully completes their qualification.
- We will support the Educator in completing their qualification through mentoring and assistance.

Early Childhood Teacher

An Early Childhood Teacher is a person with an approved early childhood teaching qualification in accordance with ACECQA qualification list. A record must be kept containing the period the early childhood teacher is working directly with children.

- Our Service will comply and will engage and have access to an Early Childhood Teacher based on the number and age of children attending the Service.
- Our Service will employ a second early childhood teacher or alternatively a 'suitably qualified person' when 60 or more children preschool age or under on a given day, are being educated and cared for.
- Our Service will ensure that when there are 25-29 children being educated and cared for at least one ECT will be in attendance for at least 6 hours on that day
- If an early childhood teacher is absent due to short term illness or leave, the following persons can be taken to be the ECT:
 - a person who holds a primary teaching qualification
 - a person who holds an approved diploma level qualification
(This applied for up to 60 days in a 12 month period only)

Educational Leader

The Educational Leader has an influential role in inspiring, motivating, affirming, and challenging or extending the practice and pedagogy of Educators. It is a joint endeavour involving inquiry and reflection, which can significantly impact on the important work Educators do with children and families.

- The Approved Provider will nominate a qualified and experienced Educator to take on the Educational Leader role and responsibilities.
- The Educational Leader will keep a record about how they mentor and guide Educators of the Service to ensure continuous improvement.

- The Educational Leader will guide Educators to provide a compliant and rich program.

Nominated Supervisor

The Nominated Supervisor is a suitable person appointed by the Approved Provider who is placed in day-to-day charge of an approved Service. The approved provider must provide sufficient evidence and information to demonstrate compliance to the regulatory authority of suitability of this person.

Nominated Supervisors have a range of responsibilities under the National Law and Regulations including programming, supervision and safety of children, entry to and exit from the premises, food and beverage, administration of medication, excursions, staffing, sleep, and rest.

The approved provider will display the name of the nominated supervisor in a place that is clearly visible to staff, educators, families and visitors.

- The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Service, ensuring compliance with the National Law, Regulations and National Standards.
- The nominated supervisor must be 18 years or older
- The nominated supervisor must have successfully completed child protection training
- The Nominated Supervisor will accept the role in writing, to ensure they have a clear understanding about their role and responsibilities.
- The Nominated Supervisor will ensure the Service program is reflective of the approved learning framework, incorporate the children's developmental needs, interests, and experiences, and consider the individual differences and needs of each child.
- The Nominated Supervisor will adhere to Service policies ensuring a safe and healthy environment is provided.

Responsible Person

A Responsible Person is required to be physically present at the Service at all times that children are being educated and cared for. The Responsible Person will be the Approved Provider, or a person with management or control placed in day-to-day charge of the Service. The Responsible Person must be at least 18 years old and have adequate knowledge and understanding of the provision of education and care to children.

- Our Service will ensure there is always a Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person on the premises when children are being educated and cared for.
- Our Service will clearly communicate the Responsible Person on duty with families, educators, staff and visitors in our Responsible Persons Register
- The Responsible Person will adhere to Service policies and procedures and maintain a safe and healthy environment for children.
- The Responsible Person will always act with professionalism when dealing with children, educators, visitors, and families.

Approved First Aid Qualifications

- The Approved Provider is required to ensure at least one staff member or one Nominated Supervisor holds current qualifications for first aid, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training.
- The Approved Provider must ensure at least one staff member or one Nominated Supervisor be in attendance at any place children are being educated and cared for by the Service and be immediately available in an emergency and hold the mandatory qualifications for:
 - an ACECQA approved first aid qualification,
 - anaphylaxis management and
 - Emergency asthma management training.
 - (Approved qualifications are published on the ACECQA website)
- Services must have staff with current approved qualifications on duty at all times.
- It is the Staff and Educator's responsibility to ensure they maintain current First Aid, Asthma, and Anaphylaxis Training certificates and provide the Service with a copy of the certificate. Staff and Educators must ensure they participate in training prior to the expiration date on their certificates.

Working with Children Check

A Working With Children Check is a requirement for people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It involves a national criminal history check and a review of findings of workplace misconduct. Cleared applicants are subject to ongoing monitoring and relevant new records may lead to the clearance being revoked.

- To comply with National Regulations for those undertaking paid or voluntary child-related work all employees of the Service will acquire a Working with Children Check.

- Management will verify all Working With Children Checks to ensure the children are protected.
- Management will keep a record of the expiry date of the Working with Children Check for all staff.
- Management will ensure the working with children checks are verified before nominated supervisors or responsible persons are engaged at the service.

Staff Record

- Approved Services must keep information about the Nominated Supervisor, Educational Leader, Staff, Volunteers, Students, and the Responsible Person at the Service.
- Details must include evidence of staff working directly with children, qualifications, training and Working with Children Check.
- All Staff, Educators, Students, Volunteers, and Visitors are required to sign in and out each day.

Adequate Supervision:

Adequate supervision is a consideration for any part of the Service premises where children are educated and cared for, and is part of every educator's Duty of Care. Educators are required to ensure that children are in sight and/or hearing at all times, demonstrating that the best interest of children is being provided for. This includes toileting, sleep, rest, nappy changing, and transition routines.

- Our Service will comply with educator to child ratios outlined in National Legislation and National Quality Standard.
- Educators will always be able to observe each child, respond to individual needs and attend to children as necessary.
- Educators will adjust their level of supervision depending on the area of the Service and the skills, age, dynamics, and size of the group of children being supervised.
- Educators will communicate with other Staff and Educators about their supervision points, offer advice and support to ensure children's safety is of the highest priority at all times.
- When supervising outdoors Educators will position themselves so as to be able to see as much of the play area as possible.
- Unless briefly discussing child or Service concerns, educators will not congregate together either inside or outside.
- Educators are required to adhere to the services supervision policy and the floor plan to maintain effective supervision

- Infants and toddlers who are sleeping in cots or beds will be closely monitored and checked/monitored every 10 minutes to assess their breathing and the colour of their skin.
- Older children will be supervised whilst sleeping or resting.
- Children will be supervised when hand washing and during toileting/nappy change times.
- Supervising educators will give their complete attention to the children and not perform other duties or tasks
- Unless briefly discussing a child or service concerns, educators will not congregate together either inside or outside.
- Educators will interact with children where pedagogically appropriate whilst supervising.

Working directly with children

National Regulations state that an Educator cannot be included in calculating the Educator to child ratio of a Centre based Service unless the Educator is working directly with children. A record must be kept of Educators working directly with children which includes the name of each Educator and hours each Educator works directly with children being educated and cared for by the Service.

- To ensure compliance with regulations, we will only include Educators in the educator to child ratio who are working directly with the children and ensure a current roster and sign on/sign off are available to verify this.
- The approved provider must ensure that a record is kept indicating the period of time an early childhood teacher and each suitably qualified person is working directly with the children.

Rosters

- Our Service will ensure the roster and routine provides adequate supervision of children at all times.
- Rosters will be created to ensure the children receive continuity of care to support children's development of secure relationships and contribute to their wellbeing.
- Where possible, casual staff will be chosen from a pool of regular Educators with whom the children are familiar to provide continuity of care.

Volunteers and Students

- At no time will volunteers and/or students be left alone with a child or group of children, or be included in the educator to child ratio.
- All Volunteers and Students will be inducted into the Service to ensure they adhere to the Service policies and procedures and statement of philosophy.

Privacy

- Educators will adhere to the Service’s privacy and confidentiality policy and Privacy Law in relation to children and their families, or matters relating to the Service and will at no time take part in inappropriate or unlawful conversations or discussions.
- The Nominated Supervisor will ensure that students and volunteers are made aware of the Services privacy and confidentiality policy and Privacy Law during their initial induction.
- All staff, educators, volunteers and students are provided with information about the ECA Code of Ethics.

EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIOS

our service will meet the minimum child ratio requirements as stated below

STATE	AGE	EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIO
VIC	Birth to 24 months	1 Educator to 4 Children
	Over 24 months and less than 36 months	1 Educator to 4 Children
	Over 36 months of age or over (not including children over pre-school age)	1 Educator to 11 Children

Source

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

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2020).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2018).

Office of the Children’s Guardian: <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>

Revised national quality standard (2018)

Department of the officer of privacy commissioner: www.privacy.gov.au

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REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	April 2020	NEXT REVIEW DATE	April 2021
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the National Regulations included in policy • Amendments and additions to Regulations for NSW added • Definition of 'suitably qualified persons' added • additions to content re: Nominated Supervisor • Educator to children ratios amended • Information about supervision condensed to avoid repetition • Revision of approved first aid qualifications 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Policy Created 	February 2019	
February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar, punctuation and spelling edited. • Wording 'corrected'. • Additional information added to points. • Sources checked for currency. • Sources/references corrected, updated, and alphabetised. 	February 2020	