



Excursions Policy

Aim

Excursions are a valuable experience for children, families and staff of education and care settings. Excursions provide the opportunity to expand and enhance children's experiences, explore different environments and engage in meaningful ways with their communities.

Rationale

Excursions require appropriate planning and risk management to ensure the best experience and enjoyment for all. CSIROCare Clayton is committed to providing excursions that are well considered and planned, provide meaningful experiences and ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children at all times.

Body

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

Reg. 100: Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion

(1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure a risk assessment is carried out in accordance with regulation 101 before an authorisation is sought under regulation 102 for an excursion.

(2) The nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure a risk assessment is carried out in accordance with regulation 101 before an authorisation is sought under regulation 102 for an excursion.

Reg.102: Authorisation for excursions

(1)The approved provider 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 under sub-regulation (4). (2) The 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 under subregulation (4).

Links to National Quality Standard:

2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

7.3.5 Service practices are based on effectively documented policies and procedures that are available at the service and reviewed regularly

The National Law

- All children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised at all times that the children are in the care of the service (section 165);
- Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from any harm or hazard likely to cause injury (section 167); and
- The relevant number of educators educating and caring for the children is no less than the number prescribed for this purpose (section 169).

3. Who is affected by this policy?

- a) Children
 - b) Staff
 - c) Parents
 - d) Management
4. Implementation

CSIRO Care Clayton will:

- A. Make excursions a part of the program of education and care;
- B. Plan for excursions with careful consideration of the safety of children and adults;
- C. Carry out excursions only where full documentation and permissions have been completed and obtained;
- D. Undertake full risk assessments (see attached risk assessment form), consideration of value of educational excursions, and plan for first aid requirements.

Planning and Preparations

All excursions will be planned in advance to:

- A. supervision is adequate so children cannot be separated from the group;
- B. access to hazardous equipment and environments are minimised;
- C. there is adequate access to food, drink and other facilities (toilets, hand washing etc);
- D. consideration is given to the mobility and supervision requirements of children with additional needs;
- E. that adequate sun and shade protection is available.

When planning for an excursion staff will:

- A. Assess the requirements for the excursion;
- B. Conduct a risk assessment;
- C. Book transport venues;
- D. Make alternative arrangements for adverse weather conditions;
- E. Inform families of the details of the excursion including destination, objectives and outcomes, and what the child should bring;
- F. Provide parents or legal guardians with an excursion permission form to complete to authorise their child to participate on the excursion;
- G. Collect completed permission forms for each child attending the excursion;
- H. Request additional adult participation on the excursion where required;
- I. Arrange for a suitably equipped first aid kit (including EpiPen) and mobile phone to be taken on the excursion.

Educators must make alternate arrangements for any children who are not attending the excursion, and ensure that any dialogue or pre-planning for the excursion does not alienate such children from social networks.

Additional factors need to be considered in the planning of excursions for children with additional needs. Where possible, our service will uphold the right for all children to access all excursions and engage in meaningful ways while on excursions.

Risk Assessment

The Nominated Supervisor will:

A. Ensure a risk assessment is conducted prior to any excursion to identify and assess the risk the excursion may pose to the safety, health and wellbeing of any child whilst on the excursion, and will specify how the service will manage any risks identified. The risk assessment conducted will consider:

A. destination and duration of the excursion;

B. potential water hazards or any hazard associated with water based activities;

C. transport to and from destination;

D. number of educators, responsible persons, and children involved;

E. proposed activities; and

F. items to be taken on the excursion eg: mobile phone, emergency contact numbers etc. If the excursion is a regular occurrence a risk assessment will only be carried out once, provided the circumstances around the excursion have not changed in any way since the initial risk assessment was conducted.

The Nominated Supervisor will also:

A. appoint a Certified Supervisor to be in charge of the excursion.

Authorisation for Excursions

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure that:

For all excursions parents or legal guardians will be given an excursion permission form with full details of the excursion including:

A. date, description, duration and destination of proposed excursion;

B. method of transport to be used;

C. reason for the excursion, and proposed activities to be conducted on the excursion;

D. the anticipated adult: child ratio – outlining number of educators and staff and other adults attending;

E. a statement that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the service for parents to view.

F. If the excursion is a regular outing, authorisation is required once in a 12 month period. All parents or legal guardians will be asked to sign permission forms for regular excursions on enrolment and at the beginning of each subsequent year.

G. No child will be taken on an excursion unless written permission from parents or legal guardian has been received.

Families and Volunteers

A. Families will be encouraged to participate in excursions to assist in maintaining suitable child/staff ratios. If the parent needs to bring their child's sibling because they cannot find suitable care, the siblings must be included in ratios.

B. If additional adults are required volunteers will be invited. Volunteers will be mature, responsible people who are aware of the hazards and responsibilities of taking a group of children out the service.

C. Family members/volunteers will not to be left in sole charge of children and must be supervised by an educator at all times.

D. All volunteers/family members' details will be entered into the appropriate staff record for that day.

Transport and Traffic

A. Safety of children will be considered in the choice of route and mode of transport. Our service will follow all applicable VIC road rules as well as the Kids and Traffic best practice recommendations for transporting young children safely in buses. Every reasonable precaution will be taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

B. Educators will ensure children obey road rules and cross roads at a crossing or lights where available. Educators will remain vigilant to ensure no child runs ahead or lags behind the group.

Supervision

A. Supervision on excursions will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children for the duration of the excursion, taking into account ratios and all risks and hazards likely to be encountered.

B. The venue will be assessed as safe for all children and adults on the excursion and will be easily supervised and accessible.

Water Hazards

- A. No excursions will be conducted to a swimming pool or other water related activity. Where there are significant water hazards (such as rivers, lakes or beaches), risk management strategies will be identified and implemented.

Conducting the Excursion

A. All educators, volunteers and children attending will be informed of excursion timetable/itinerary, special requirements, safety procedures, grouping of children and responsibilities.

B. A list of children on the excursion will be left at the service and a copy carried by the delegated Certified Supervisor.

C. Before leaving on the excursion, a notice will be prominently displayed at the service which includes:

- a) itinerary and timetable; and
- b) mobile contact phone number.
- c) Items to be taken on excursions include:
- d) a suitable stocked first-aid kit including EpiPen;
- e) a mobile phone;
- f) children's emergency contact numbers;
- g) children's medication, if required; and
- h) other items as required e.g. sunscreen, drinking cups, jackets etc.
- i) If a child is lost on an excursion, we will always leave a staff member behind to look, while the other group leaders escort the children back