



Providing a child safe environment

National Quality Standard Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations	Associated department policy, procedure or guideline	Reference document(s) and/or advice from a recognised authority
<p>NQS: 2.2, 3.1</p> <p>Law Section: 162A, 165, 166, 167</p> <p>Regulations: 84, 103, 105, 109, 115</p>	<p>Leading and operating department and preschool guidelines</p> <p>Child Protection policy – Responding to and reporting students at risk of harm</p> <p>Child Protection – Allegations against employees</p> <p>Working with Children Check policy</p> <p>Department web page – Child Protection</p>	<p>ACECQA information sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active supervision – Ensuring safety and promoting learning [PDF 910 KB] Minimising the risk of children being mistakenly locked in or out of service premises [PDF 478 KB] <p>Kidsafe NSW</p> <p>Implementing the Child Safe Standards – A guide for early childhood education and outside school hours care services [PDF 3.7 MB]</p> <p>Keeping our kids safe – Cultural safety and the national principles for child safe organisations [PDF 13.1 MB]</p> <p>ACECQA information sheet – Embedding the national child safe principles</p> <p>ACECQA’s policy and procedures guidelines – Providing a child safe environment [PDF 217 KB]</p> <p>Department of Communities and Justice – signs of abuse</p>

Responsibilities

<p>School principal</p>	<p>The principal as nominated supervisor, educational leader and responsible person holds primary responsibility for the preschool.</p> <p>The principal is responsible for ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the preschool is compliant with legislative standards related to this procedure at all times all staff involved in the preschool are familiar with and implement this procedure all procedures are current and reviewed as part of a continuous cycle of self-assessment. <p>These tasks may be delegated to other members of the preschool team, but the responsibility sits with the principal.</p>
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<p>Preschool supervisor</p>	<p>The preschool supervisor supports the principal in their role and is responsible for leading the review of this procedure through a process of self-assessment and critical reflection. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysing complaints, incidents or issues and the implications for updates to this procedure • reflecting on how this procedure is informed by stakeholder feedback and relevant expert authorities • planning and discussing ways to engage with families and communities, including how changes are communicated • developing strategies to induct all staff when procedures are updated to ensure practice is embedded.
<p>Preschool teacher(s) and educator(s)</p>	<p>Preschool teachers and educators are responsible for working with the preschool leadership team to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all staff in the preschool and daily practices comply with this procedure • this procedure is stored in a way that it is accessible to all staff, families, visitors and volunteers • they are actively involved in the review of this procedure, as required, or at least annually • details of this procedure's review are documented.

Procedure

<p>Supervision plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preschool children are adequately supervised at all times. • A supervision plan is in place to support active supervision. (see Appendix A) • A staff roster ensures a ratio of one educator for each ten children is maintained at all times the preschool is open, including during planned educator breaks. • The classroom teacher is on the school's playground roster so she is relieved during one break per day. • The school learning support officers and Aboriginal education officer take consecutive 40-minute breaks to ensure ratios are maintained. • To implement the Child Safe Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – any visitors or volunteers are appropriately supervised to safeguard children's safety – where possible, each staff member remains in the line of sight of other staff members when working with children.
<p>Child protection</p>	<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teaching, non-teaching, ongoing and casual staff complete the department's child protection induction training on commencing with the department, and then mandatory updates annually. • Preschool educators are encouraged and supported to raise and discuss any child protection concerns they have with their supervisor or principal. • Prior to new staff commencing work at Liverpool West Public school (in any role) they need to show evidence of having completed all mandatory training. • At the start of every year all teaching and non-teaching staff are provided with opportunity to complete required updates. • Every year CPR Training is delivered annually by an approved external provider.

- Primarily it is the responsibility of each staff member to ensure their training is current. The school also keeps a record of all mandatory training and this is checked periodically by the school administration staff and senior executive.

Mandatory reporters

- As a mandatory reporter, each staff member, volunteer or education student will inform the principal if they have reasonable grounds to suspect any risk of harm to a child or young person.
- The principal will then apply the department's child protection policy – [Child Protection: Responding to and reporting students at risk of harm](#)
- As described in this policy, the principal will use appropriate tools such as the online [Mandatory Reporter Guide](#), professional judgement or specialist advice to determine if concerns about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of the child constitutes risk of significant harm. If they do, the principal will report to the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).
- The principal will let the person who made the report know the action taken. If a staff member believes that the principal has not reported risk of significant harm concerns to the DCJ, they must report directly to DCJ themselves.

Reportable conduct

- All staff, volunteers and education students who become aware of an allegation of a child protection nature about themselves or another employee must inform the principal.
- On receiving a report of reportable conduct, the principal will apply the department policy – [Child Protection: Allegations Against Employees](#).
- If an allegation involves the principal, the staff member must inform another supervisor or suitable person, such as the Director Educational Leadership (DEL) within that network.
- Principals must immediately report allegations against a staff member or volunteer of a child protection nature to Professional and Ethical Standards (PES) using the [PES Reporting guide](#).
- PES ensure the department's statutory responsibilities are met, including notifying the Office of Children's Guardian of reportable conduct under the *Children's Guardian Act 2019*.
- Principals must report to NSW Police and/or Child Protection Helpline if the child is at risk of significant harm.

Notification to the Regulatory Authority

- Notification must be to Early Learning (email earlylearning@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 083 698) when:
 - a staff member reasonably believes that physical or sexual abuse of a child has or is occurring at the preschool
 - an allegation or complaint is made that physical or sexual abuse of a child has or is occurring at the preschool.

Record keeping

- Records relating to child sexual abuse that has or is alleged to have occurred within the preschool will be kept for at least 45 years from the date the record was created.

Working with children checks

- All department staff hold a current *Working with Children Check* clearance valid for paid work and verified by the department.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff who work in the preschool, including staff who provide break cover or release from face-to-face (RFF) have their WWCC number, expiry date and proof of verification stored in the staff folder located in the preschool.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents and close relatives volunteering in the preschool do not require a WWCC clearance, but must complete a WWCC Declaration for Child Related Workers, with sections 1, 3 and 4 completed and provide 100 points of proof of identity. Volunteers over the age of 18 who are not parents or close relatives of a child attending the school at which they are volunteering are considered Specified volunteers and require a WWCC clearance to participate in the preschool program.
<p>Child safe culture</p> <p>The safe use of online environments</p>	<p>To implement the Child Safe Standards a child safe culture has been established and is maintained, with children’s health, safety and wellbeing prioritised.</p> <p>Give details of practices and systems in place that do this, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preschool makes a public commitment to child safety, for example, in the philosophy, family information booklet or newsletter. Self-assessment and quality improvement processes examine and evaluate the implementation of the child safe standards. Risk assessment plans are conducted and implemented to prevent and respond to possible risks to child safety. Locally developed procedures describe processes that maintain child safety. The review of these procedures considers them from a child safety perspective. Reviews are conducted as required, particularly in response to a critical incident, or annually. Opportunities are provided for parents to share their feedback and have input into preschool decisions, particularly the review of local procedures and the philosophy. Parents are informed of the actions the preschool takes to ensure child safety. Parents are provided with information about child safety, including how they can report a child protection concern. All staff are responsive to children, listening to what they say, believing them and acting on any concerns they have. Staff provide opportunities for children to share their opinions and contribute to decisions that affect them, enabling them to then be able to confidently ‘speak up’ to raise a concern, if needed. All staff are supported to fulfil their legal obligation as a mandatory reporter through annual training and opportunities to discuss concerns at team meetings. Complaints are handled in a child-focused manner and as outlined in the department’s Complaint Handling policy. The preschool’s supervision plan describes how higher risk times of the day and activities are more closely supervised. Children’s use of online devices is supervised closely. All devices have child-safe filters installed.
<p>Risk management plan for the preschool environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A risk assessment plan for the preschool environment is reviewed and updated annually. It identifies potential risks in both the indoor and outdoor environment, and describes steps taken to reduce or minimise these risks. A general risk assessment plan covers the children leaving the preschool to attend P-6 activities on school site. Individual risk assessment plans are created for one-off events held on- or off-site. Plans are reviewed annually, as needed, particularly if there has been a critical incident, and/or prior to a one-off event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the responsibility of the supervisor and, along with the preschool staff plans are reviewed and updated.
Clean, hygienic and safe environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A daily safety check of the indoors and outdoors is carried out before children arrive each day. A record is kept of what is checked, signed and dated by the person who carried out the check. The records are kept in the preschool office. Any hazardous or broken items are rectified or removed from areas the children can access. If required, preschool maintenance is carried out by the school's general assistant (GA). Any hazardous concern that is a health and safety issue is reported to the GA immediately by phone. If the GA is not available the office is contacted for an immediate response. The GA assesses the concern and will organise a trades person if necessary. Any other maintenance issues are entered on Sentral for the GA to attend to by any of the preschool educators. All potentially hazardous products and materials are stored securely and inaccessible to children. The area in which they are stored is labelled as containing <i>hazardous</i> or <i>dangerous</i> materials. There are no toxic plants on the preschool site. Before a new plant is introduced to the site, reference is made to Kidsafe: Grow me safely to determine if it is safe or not. Environmental and equipment cleaning is an ongoing process to ensure the preschool is always safe and hygienic.

Record of procedure's review

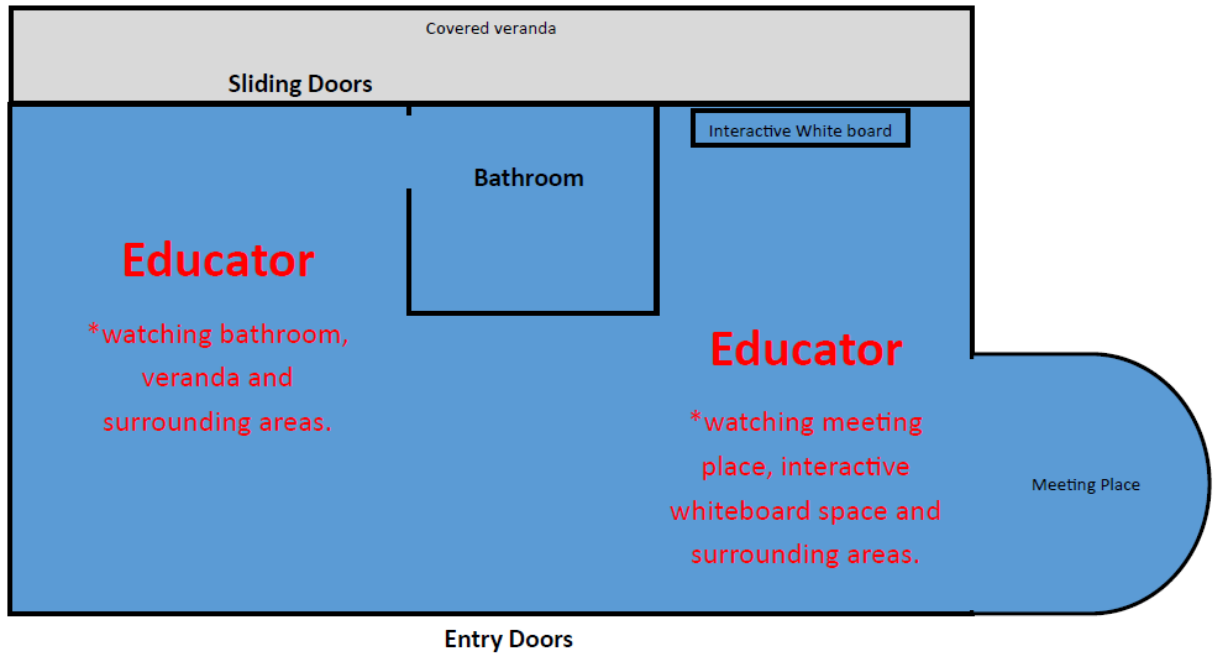
Date of review	10/10/2023
Who was involved	Preschool supervisor and educators
Key changes made and reason why	<p>More clarification regarding supervision due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual review update to new proforma in response to a critical incident (11/9/23).
Record of communication of significant changes to relevant stakeholders	<p>Principal: via email</p> <p>Staff: via email</p> <p>Parents: through ClassDojo, school website</p>

Copy and paste the last 4 rows to the bottom of the table each time a new review is completed.

Appendix A

Supervision Layout Indoors

This is a guide where educators should be when supervising the children. There are bind spots in our indoor environment. Make sure you are always floating around and watching where the children are predominantly, particularly during transitions from indoor/outdoor and arrival/departure.



Supervision Layout Outdoors

This is a guide where educators should be when supervising the children. There are bind spots in our outdoor environment. Make sure you are always floating around and watching where the children are predominantly, particularly during transitions from indoor/outdoor, arrival/departure and around storage container.

