



Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations

Statement

Authorisation must be obtained from parent/guardians or authorised nominees in the following circumstances:

- administering medication to children (regulation 92)
- children leaving the premises in the care of someone other than their parent (regulation 99) other than the case of emergency
- children being taken on excursions (regulation 102)

Goals

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Educators require authorisation for actions such as administration of medications, collection of children, excursions and providing access to personal records. This policy outlines what constitutes a correct authorisation and what does not, and may therefore result in a refusal.

Strategies

Refusing a Written Authorisation

On receipt of a written authorisation from a parent/guardian that does not meet the requirements outlined in the related service policy, the Approved Provider or delegated authority will:

- Immediately explain to the parent/guardian that their written authorisation does not meet legislative and policy guidelines.
- Provide the parent/guardian with a copy of the relevant service policy and ensure that they understand the reasons for the refusal of the authorisation.
- Request that an appropriate alternative written authorisation is provided by the parent/guardian.
- In instances where the parent/guardian cannot be immediately contacted to provide an alternative written authorisation, follow related policy procedures pertaining to the authorisation type.
- Follow up with the parent/guardian, where required, to ensure that an appropriate written authorisation is obtained.



Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.
- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times.
- Ensure all authorisations will be retained within the Enrolment Record, original copy and will include:
 - » the name of the child enrolled in the service
 - » the date
 - » the signature of the child's parent/guardian or nominated contact person who is on the enrolment form
 - » the original form/letter/register provided by the service.
- Ensure that all parents/guardians have completed the authorised nominee section of their child's enrolment form and that the form is signed and dated before the child is enrolled at the service.
- Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards.

Early Childhood Educators and Certified Supervisors

- Apply these authorisations to the collection of children, administration of medication, excursion and access to records.
- Exercise the right of refusal if written or verbal authorisations do not comply.
- Waive compliance where a child requires emergency medical treatment for conditions such as anaphylaxis or asthma. The service can administer medication without authorisation in these cases, provided it is noted on medical plans and that parents/guardians are contacted as soon as practicable after the medication has been administered.

Families

- Ensure that you complete and sign the authorised nominee section of your child's enrolment form before your child attends the service.
- Keep child enrolment details forms current stating who the authorised nominees are.
- Inform service of current contact numbers to ensure you are contactable at all times.
- Communicate to Responsible Person and staff any individual requests regarding authorisations.
- Ensure that where children require medication to be administered by educators or other staff, you authorise this in writing, sign and date it for inclusion in your child's medical record.



Monitoring, Evaluating and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the service will review this Policy every 18 months. Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

Sources

Sources

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Related Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167 f Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 99, 102, 160, 161, 168(2) (m)

Family Law Act 1975 (Cth), as amended 2011

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998