



## Participation of Volunteers and Students

### Statement

Our service is committed to providing a safe environment for all children where their health, safety wellbeing is of paramount importance. In order to ensure this is preserved during the engagement of student and volunteers, and in order to remain compliant with regulations and legislation, the service will abide by the strategies and practices outlined in this policy.

### Goals

Our education and care service values volunteer participation as a connection to our local community and exposure to a range of people and experiences. Accepting students on placement is part of our professional responsibility to support our sector and provide valuable experience and learning opportunities.

### Strategies

A Working with Children Check will be phased in for unpaid students and volunteers between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018. All students and volunteers will be required to undertake a working with children check from this date. Volunteers and students do not make up part of the staff to child ratio and cannot be used to fill the place of an employee.

Volunteers and students must not be asked to perform tasks:

- » that they are untrained, unqualified or too inexperienced to undertake
- » that put the children or themselves in a vulnerable or potentially unsafe situation.

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Approved Provider

Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011 with regard to the delivery and collection of children at all times.

- ensuring that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are adequately supervised at all times, and that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected.



- ensuring that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are not left with sole supervision of individual children or groups of children.
- ensuring that parents/guardians of a child attending the service can enter the service premises at any time that the child is being educated and cared for, except where this may pose a risk to the safety of children or staff, or conflict with any duty of the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor or staff members under the law.
- ensuring that the staff record contains information for all volunteers/ students attending the service with details of name, address, date of birth, days and hours of participation and details of the Working with Children Check (WWCC).

#### **Nominated Supervisor**

- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times.
- Ensuring that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are adequately supervised at all times, and that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected.
- Ensuring that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are not left with sole supervision of individual children or groups of children.
- Providing volunteers/students and parents/guardians with access to all service policies and procedures.
- Ensuring that volunteers/students and parents/guardians comply with the National Regulations and all service policies and procedures.

#### **Early Childhood Educators**

- Complying with the requirement that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are adequately supervised at all times, and that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected.
- Complying with the requirement that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are not left with sole supervision of individual children or groups of children.
- Enabling parents/guardians of children attending the service to access the service premises at any time the child is being educated and cared for, except where this poses a risk to the safety of children and/or staff.
- Ensure volunteers/students and parents/guardians that stay in the service for any longer other than to drop off or collect children and/or to have conversations with Educators or Staff they will sign in and out in the Visitors Book.
- Encouraging the participation and involvement of parents/ guardians at the service.



### Student and Volunteers

- Ensuring they have provided all details required to complete the staff record.
- Provide WWCC details.
- Understanding and acknowledging the requirement for confidentiality of all information relating to staff, families and children within the service (refer to privacy and confidentiality policy).
- Complying with the requirements of the education and care services national regulations 2011 and with all service policies and procedures, including the code of conduct policy, while at the service.
- Following the directions of staff at the service at all times to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of children is protected.
- Participating in an orientation procedure.

### Families

- Complying with the requirements of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and with all service policies and procedures, while attending the service.
- Following the directions of staff at the service, at all times, to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of children is protected.

## 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. In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.



## Sources

### Sources

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

NSW Office of the Children's Guardian [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov. au/working-with-children/ working-with-childrencheck](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-childrencheck)

### Related Legislation

Education and Care National Law Act 2010: Clause 13(c)

Education and Care National Regulations 2011: 46, 47(1)

Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012 NSW