

ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION AND SAFE TRANSPORT POLICY

QUALITY AREA 2 & 6 | ELAA version 1.0

This policy was developed by Early Learning Association Australia in consultation with the Department of Transport and the early childhood sector as part of the Department of Transport Starting Out Safely program.



Working in partnership with Cancer Council Victoria, ELAA has aligned this policy to the key policies and guidelines of the Healthy Early Childhood Services Achievement Program



PURPOSE

To define the responsibilities of Vasey Park Preschool to ensure that all children are:

- kept safe while travelling as pedestrians, cyclists or passengers in a vehicle
- able to participate in road safety education to assist them in being and becoming safe and responsible road users.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Vasey Park Preschool is committed to:

- the rights of children to be active citizens in the community
- the rights of children to travel safely as passengers, pedestrians and cyclists
- an evidence-based approach in the provision of road safety education and practice
- the role of parents/guardians and families as children's first and most influential teachers.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Vasey Park Preschool, including during excursions, regular outings, and transportation.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the:

- Excursions and Service Events Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
Ensuring the embedding in the curriculum of road safety education, based on the National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education (refer to Attachment 1).	√	√	√		
Working in collaboration to develop appropriate strategies to ensure that all children attending the service are included in road safety education.	√	√	√		√
Ensuring early childhood teacher, educators and staff to participate in regular professional development/	√	√			
Participating in training in road safety and ensuring they are kept up to date with current legislation, regulations, rules, standards and evidence informed practice information.		√	√		√
Providing early childhood teachers and educators with access to a broad range of road safety education resources	√	√			
Ensuring the availability (in good condition) and use of bicycle helmets which meet Australian/New Zealand Standard 2063 for bicycles and wheeled toys (refer to Definitions).	√	√	√		
Monitoring the correct use of bicycle helmets whenever bicycles or wheeled toys are used.		√	√		√
Ensuring that location-specific road safety information is displayed at the service where relevant (e.g. information on where and how to drive & park safely when delivering and collecting children, carpark signage)	√	√	√		
Ensuring that parents/guardians have access to this policy and its attachments.	√	√	√		
Transportation of children for excursion					
Ensuring that a child is not transported without prior written authorisation by the parent/guardian or person named in the child's enrolment record, and that the authorisation includes all details required under Regulation 102 (4)	√	√	√		
Ensuring the risk assessment (refer to Definitions) identifies and assesses the risks, specifies how these will be managed and/or minimised, and includes all details required by Regulation 101, 102	√	√	√		
Ensuring all supervision requirements are met during transportation, including educator to child ratios Regulation 123	√	√	√		√
Ensuring first aid requirements are met during transportation, including the availability of up-to-date, suitably equipped first	√	√			

aid kits (<i>Regulation 89</i>) and that educators or staff with first aid qualifications and training are in attendance (<i>Regulation 136</i>)					
Ensuring that buses hired for use on excursions have fitted seatbelts that are correctly used by all children, staff and volunteers for the entire trip.	√	√	√		
Ensuring that appropriate procedures are followed in the event of a vehicle crash or transport-related injury involving any children, staff or volunteers from the service (<i>refer to Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy</i>).	√	√	√		
Establishing agreed procedures for staff to follow where a child is observed being transported to or from the premises in an unsafe manner (<i>refer to Attachment 2</i>).	√	√	√		√
Implementing the services-agreed procedures when notified or when there has been observation of child/ren being transported in an unsafe manner.	√	√	√		√
Transportation of children to/from the service					
Ensuring that each child's enrolment record (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) provides details of the name, address and telephone number of any person who is authorised to consent to transport the child or arrange transportation (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) of the child (<i>Regulation 160 (3) (b)(vi)</i>)	√	√			
Ensuring authorisation is provided on the enrolment record (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) for the regular transportation (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) of the child (<i>Regulation 161 (2) (c)</i>)	√	√			
Ensuring that a child is not transported without prior written authorisation (except in an emergency) by the parent/guardian or person named in the child's enrolment record, and that the authorisation includes all details required under <i>Regulation 102D (4)</i>	√	√			
Ensuring the risk assessment (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) identifies and assesses the risks, specifies how these will be managed and/or minimised, and includes all details required by <i>Regulation 102B, 102C</i>	√	√			
Ensuring that buses/vehicles used for use for the transportation (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) of children have fitted seatbelts that are correctly used by all children for the entire trip.	√	√	√		
Ensuring all supervision requirements are met during transportation, including educator to child ratios <i>Regulation 123</i>	√	√	√		√
Ensuring first aid requirements are met during transportation, including the availability of up-to-date, suitably equipped first aid kits (<i>Regulation 89</i>) and that educators or staff with first aid qualifications and training are in attendance (<i>Regulation 136</i>)	√	√			
Completing any relevant documentation of children's attendance and movement to and from the transportation	√	√	√		√
Implementing the services agreed procedures when notified or when there has been observation of child/ren being transported in an unsafe manner.	√	√	√		√
Ensuring that appropriate procedures are followed in the event of a vehicle crash or transport-related injury involving any	√	√	√		√

children, staff or volunteers from the service (<i>refer to Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy</i>)					
ensuring that each child travels in a restraint suitable for their age/size when arriving at or departing from the service				√	
being aware of all location-specific and general road safety requirements including details about where to park to deliver and collect children, observing speed limits in the vicinity of the service, modelling safe road use	√	√	√	√	√
communicating any issues or concerns relating to a child's safety or wellbeing to the early childhood service				√	√
BOLD tick √ indicates legislation requirement					



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Road safety education can help to reduce the risk of serious injury and death among young children by assisting them to develop skills, knowledge, and behaviour about the safe use of roads.

Working collaboratively with families to help children become safe and responsible road users aligns with the learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Road trauma is one of the leading causes of death among young Australians. Young children are at risk as passengers in motor vehicles, as pedestrians and as cyclists. They are particularly vulnerable due to:

- their small size and changing needs as they grow
- their cognitive and perceptual skills still developing.

Under duty of care obligations, services must develop appropriate procedures to guide staff to address situations where a child is observed to be at risk while being transported to or from the early childhood service. This may include instances where a child is observed to be:

- travelling unrestrained
- travelling in an inappropriate restraint
- riding a bicycle or wheeled toy without a helmet
- instances where a parent/guardian is in an unfit state to drive due to intoxication or impairment.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 99, 100, 101, 102, 102B, 102C, 102D, 158, 159, 160, 161
- National Quality Standard
 - Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities
- Road Safety Act 1986

- Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.

Child restraint: A device used in conjunction with an adult seatbelt or ISOFIX-compatible lower attachment connectors and a tether strap, to restrain a child passenger of a motor vehicle in the event of a vehicle impact and thus minimise the risk of bodily injury.

Regular transportation: In relation to an education and care service, means the transportation by the service or arranged by the service (other than as part of an excursion) of a child being educated and cared for by the service, where the circumstances relevant to a risk assessment are the same for each occasion on which the child is transported

Risk assessment: A risk assessment must identify and assess any hazard that poses a risk to a child's health, safety and/or wellbeing while on an excursion, and specify how these risks will be managed and/or minimised (*Regulation 101, 102B, 102C*). Risk assessments must consider:

- the proposed route and location of the excursion
- any water hazards
- any risks associated with water-based activities
- transport to and from the proposed location of the excursion
- the number of adults and children participating in the excursion
- the number of educators or other responsible adults who will be providing supervision given the level of risk, and whether or not specialised skills are required (e.g. lifesaving skills)
- the proposed activities, and the impact of this on children with varying levels of ability, additional needs or medical conditions
- the proposed duration of the excursion, and the impact of this on children with varying levels of ability, additional needs or medical conditions
- any items/information that should be taken on the excursion e.g. first aid kit, emergency contact details for children, medication for children with known medical conditions (such as asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes) and a mobile phone.

ACECQA provides a sample Excursion Risk Management Plan at:

www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/sample-forms-and-templates

Transportation: Transportation forms part of an education and care service if the service remains responsible for children during the period of transportation. The responsibility for, and duty of care owed to children applies in scenarios where services are transporting children or have arranged for the transportation of children, between an education and care service premises and another location, for example their home, school, or a place of excursion.

Wheeled toy: a child's pedal car, skateboard, scooter (other than a motorised scooter) or tricycle or a similar toy, but only when it is being used by a child who is under 12 years old.



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Early Learning Association Australia: www.elaa.org.au
- Starting Out Safely: www.childroadsafety.org.au
- Department of Transport: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Car Seats Save Lives: www.carseatssavelives.com.au
- Best practice guidelines for the safe restraint of children travelling in motor vehicles. www.neura.edu.au/crs-guidelines
- ACECQA Safe Transportation of Children: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/Infosheet-SafeTransportationOfChildren.pdf>

RELATED POLICIES

- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
- Child Safe Environment
- Curriculum Development
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Excursions and Service Events
- Inclusion and Equity
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Supervision of Children



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from parents/guardians, children, educators, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*).



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education
- Attachment 2: Sample procedure when a child is observed to be at risk of harm while being transported to or from an early childhood premises



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Vasey Park Preschool on April 2022

REVIEW DATE: April 2023

ATTACHMENT 1. NATIONAL PRACTICES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION

The National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education have been developed by early childhood education and road safety experts across Australia and New Zealand. The eight national practices are based on research and are aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework.

The national practices guide early childhood educators and policy makers to develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based road safety programs that support children's and families learning about road safety. Refer to: www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au/teaching-resources/early-childhood

The eight national practices are as follows:

Holistic approaches

Recognise that children's learning is integrated and interconnected when making curriculum decisions about road safety education.

Responsiveness to children

Deliver road safety education which is responsive to individual children and extends children's strengths, knowledge and interests.

Learning through play

Through play-based learning seek opportunities to address road safety in a way that expands children's thinking and encourages problem solving.

Intentional teaching

Engage in intentional teaching which extends and expands children's learning about road safety.

Learning environments

Provide opportunities in the learning environment, including the local community, for safe and meaningful interaction with children, parents and carers about road safety.

Cultural competence

Implement road safety education that is culturally relevant for the diversity of children, their families and the community.

Continuity of learning and transitions

Use the opportunity of transitions, in active partnership with children, families and the local community, for road safety education.

Assessment for learning

Together with children and families, reflect on each child's learning and application of road safety to plan for future learning.

ATTACHMENT 2. SAMPLE PROCEDURE WHEN A CHILD IS OBSERVED TO BE AT RISK OF HARM WHILE BEING TRANSPORTED TO OR FROM AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PREMISES

Service providers have a duty of care to ensure the safety of children is paramount. Service providers must also comply with their obligations under state or territory child protection laws.

Where a parent/guardian or authorised nominee (*refer to Definitions*) is observed not using a child restraint, using the wrong child restraint, using a child restraint inappropriately or engaging in other unsafe behaviours such as parking illegally or not using a bicycle helmet, the **early childhood educator should:**

- talk with the parent/guardian/authorised nominee about the importance of safe transport procedures, including the correct use of child restraints and/or relevant road safety behaviours
- provide/refer the parent/guardian/authorised nominee to relevant information regarding safe transport
- inform the nominated supervisor or approved provider (where relevant).

If the parent/guardian or authorised nominee persists with unsafe road use behaviours, the early childhood educator must notify the **nominated supervisor or approved provider, who should:**

- contact the parent/guardian/authorised nominee directly and discuss the importance of child restraint use and/or safe road user behaviour, including legal requirements and implications
- provide the parent/guardian/authorised nominee with a copy of the *Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy*
- offer/provide assistance to the parent/guardian/authorised nominee with the choice/purchase/installation/fitment of the correct restraint or bicycle helmet for their child
- follow up with the parent/guardian/authorised nominee, where required, to ensure that they have the most appropriate restraint for their child and that it is being used correctly.

If a parent/guardian or authorised nominee appears to be impaired or intoxicated when arriving to collect their child, the **early childhood educator should:**

- encourage the parent/guardian or authorised nominee to use an alternative form of transport or contact another authorised person to collect the child. If the parent/guardian or authorised nominee is not willing to use an alternative form of transport, the educator cannot prevent the parent/guardian or authorised nominee from taking the child
- notify the police and/or child protection authorities immediately if the educator is of the opinion that the child may not be safe in the care of the parent/guardian or authorised nominee.