

B-7 Outdoor Environment

NQS

QA. 2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort
QA. 2.2	Safety
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures
QA. 2.1.3	Healthy lifestyle
QA. 3.1.1	Fit for purpose
QA. 3.1.2	Upkeep
QA. 3.2	Use
QA. 3.2.1	Inclusive environment
QA. 3.2.2	Resources support play-based activity
QA. 3.2.3	Environmentally responsible
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of educators
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems
QA. 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities
QA. 7.2.1	Continuous improvement

National Regulations

Reg. 82	Tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment
Reg. 104	Fencing
Reg. 108	Space requirements —outdoor space
Reg. 113	Outdoor space—natural environment
Reg. 114	Outdoor space—shade
Reg. 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children feel safe, secure and supported
LO. 2	Children are connected with and contribute to their world
	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
LO. 4	Children are confident and involved learners
	Children develop dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
	Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Policy Statement

We will provide a safe and secure outdoor environment where children have access to a variety of activities in which children are encouraged to participate, which promotes investigation and respect for the natural environment.

Related Policies

- ENOSHCP Policy B-1: Facility Management
- ENOSHCP Policy B-2: Building Equipment Repairs and Maintenance
- ENOSHCP Policy B-6: Indoor Environment
- ENOSHCP Policy C-11: Staff Child Ratios
- ENOSHCP Policy D-2: Hygiene
- ENOSHCP Policy D-8: Sun Protection
- ENOSHCP Policy D-26: Security
- ENOSHCP Policy D-28: Workplace Health and Safety
- ENOSHCP Policy D-30: Supervision

Procedure

The Centre will only enroll the number of children that can comfortably use the outdoor space in accordance with the Educational and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

The outdoor environment will be smoke free.

The outdoor space will be inspected daily for any obstacles or dangerous items through a daily risk assessment. These items shall be disposed of in a safe and careful manner prior to the children playing in the area.

Preferably before a session starts the outdoor space will be set up in a variety of ways to encourage participation, exploration and experiences with the natural environment. This will allow for Educators to concentrate on supervision of the children. Areas for rest and relaxation should be made available.

Various climatic conditions will be taken into account when utilising the outdoor space. Undercover areas will be made available to all children when utilising the outdoor environment in cases of wet weather and extreme heat. Educators and children will be required to demonstrate appropriate sun protection in compliance with the D8-Sun Protection Policy.

Children will have safe, easy access to toileting facilities as well as access to fresh water.

Clear boundaries shall be set and enforced using supervision and risk factors (such as school fencing, cars etc.) in boundary decision making. Orange cones will be placed each session to mark the boundary. Educators will widen or reduce the area as necessary depending on weather, educator: child ratios or other factors that may affect the boundary requirements.

When it is necessary to go outside the boundaries or line of supervision, an educator must accompany children or move so that they can see all children in their care.

The outdoor area will be comprised of both fixed and moveable equipment. The Centre will provide storage for outdoor equipment and ensure equipment is made available to children during allocated outdoor play. The sports shed will not be accessible to children without direct educator supervision.

Where possible, the outdoor area should be made easily accessible for children with varying mobility.

The outdoor area should have fencing or barriers to ensure safety from vehicles or unwanted visitors.

To ensure adequate supervision at all times, where possible, the indoor environment should open out to the outdoor environment with easy access for staff and children.

Use of other outdoor venues will be considered where access to the area is safe, adequate supervision can be maintained, the area is considered of value to the children's physical development and personal comfort, and where adequate educator/child ratios can be maintained both indoors and outdoors.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Network of Community Activities Factsheet – 'Encouraging Children Outdoors'

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