

C-11 Educator Child Ratios

NQS

QA. 2.2	Safety.
QA. 2.2.1	Supervision.
QA. 2.2.2	Incident and emergency management.
QA. 4.1	Staffing arrangements.
QA. 4.1.1	Organisation of Staff.
QA. 4.2.2	Professional standards.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.
QA. 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities.

National Regulations

Sec. 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
Sec. 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
Reg. 122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
Reg. 123	Educator to child ratios – centre-based services
Reg. 145	Staff record
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
Reg. 170	Policies and procedures to be followed
Reg. 123(d)	Educator to child ratio—children over preschool age—centre-based services

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children and young people feel safe, secure and supported
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Policy Statement

We believe that the child to Educator ratio is an important factor in determining the quality of care that we provide. We will ensure positive Educator, child and parent interactions and safe care by maintenance of the minimum standards outlined in the National Regulations.

Related Policies

- ENOSHCP Policy A-3: Philosophy
- ENOSHCP Policy C-9: Relief Staff
- ENOSHCP Policy C-10: Volunteers/Students/Visitors
- ENOSHCP Policy D-6: Transportation
- ENOSHCP Policy D-30: Supervision

- ENOSHCP Policy E-5: Excursions
- ENOSHCP Policy E-7: Water Safety

Procedure

Educator to child ratios

The educator/child ratios as outlined in the Education and Care Services National Regulations will be met at all times:

- There will be a maximum of 15 children to 1 Educator whilst in centre
- There will be a maximum of 8 children to 1 Educator for excursions in high-risk environments where containment may be an issue e.g. Taronga Zoo
- There will be a maximum of 10 children to 1 Educator for excursions in low-risk environments where containment is not an issue e.g., the movies, or third-party indoor service e.g., Inflatable World
- There will be a maximum of 5 children to 1 Educator for swimming or other water-based activity where drowning poses a significant risk.

Minimum staff numbers

There will be a minimum of two educators present at all times.

When an educator is sick or unable to attend work, appropriate relief educator will be employed to meet the required ratios (see C-9 Relief educator Policy).

In an emergency, or if an educator becomes sick, a replacement will be obtained where possible before the educator leaves the Centre.

If a relief educator is unable to be obtained, suitable volunteers may be employed on a casual basis to cover the numbers (see C-10 Volunteers, Students and Visitors Policy).

Volunteers will only be counted on excursions to make up the higher number of educators required, or when temporarily employed.

Students or junior staff members under the age of 18 years old will not be counted as part of the educator/child ratio at any time.

For excursions, consideration will be given to a reduced ratio when in a supervisory challenged environment, especially for sport-based activities or activities nearby water. This will be decided through the Risk Assessment, completed prior to all excursions.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

- Voluntary Code of Practice Section 3, Staff: child ratios
- My Time, Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia – V2.0
- NQF Review: Providing a child safe environment

Endorsed: 04/12/2023

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