



Transport Policy

Aim

To ensure the safety of all children and adults while using public or private transport, including any vehicles owned by the service.

Implementation

The safety of each child and all employees is paramount. Transportation can pose additional risks for children depending on the mode of transport involved, how it's used, and the way children move between the transport and service or other environment. The service we provide includes times when we transport children, or arrange transportation, between the service and another location, including their school, or excursion destination. The Nominated Supervisor and educators will always follow service procedures to minimise this risk including those which follow.

The Nominated Supervisor will include the Transport Policy and Procedures in staff inductions and ensure all relevant staff receive practical training in relation to the requirements. Where children are regularly transported they will also diarise to rehearse the procedures at least once every 3 months, and maintain written records of the rehearsals and staff training.

Mandatory notification to the regulatory authority

It is mandatory to notify the regulatory authority that your service provides or arranges regular transportation. The notification is to be lodged through the NQAIT System.

- The approved provider must notify the regulatory authority in a service approval application, or if the service is already approved, within seven (7) days of regular transportation being provided or arranged by the service.
- The approved provider must notify the regulatory authority within seven (7) days if there is a change to the regular transportation provided or arranged by the service, including if regular transportation is no longer provided.

Transport Guidelines

This section and the rest of the Policy covers all situations where we transport or arrange transportation of children, including excursions. Where relevant, the guidelines and procedures in this Policy will also be used to educate children, families and the community about safely transporting children and related issues like road and pedestrian safety.



Drivers

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure persons are safe, responsible drivers before allowing them to transport children. The Nominated Supervisor will nominate the driver (if not using a commercial transport company) and ensure they are not included in ratios or responsible for supervising children as they cannot provide adequate supervision while operating the vehicle. The driver **will not** conduct any checks or record keeping that involve accounting for children as they embark and disembark at the service premises. In addition (if not using a commercial transport company) they will:

- make sure there are relief drivers available to fill in for any regular drivers
- keep copies of licenses and driving records which are less than 12 months old for drivers they approve to transport children and make sure drivers:
 - are at least 18 years old and fully licensed (no L or P plate drivers)
 - have a suitable driving history eg statement of demerit points
 - have proof of valid insurance and registration
 - are familiar with the first aid kit contents
 - can operate the fire extinguisher if required
 - have a clear working with children check if required
 - understand they must always comply with the road rules (eg no speeding or touching mobile phones)
 - understand they are responsible for paying any fines they incur
 - understand they must have a zero blood alcohol level when driving children
 - understand they must report any driving convictions incurred since the Nominated Supervisor reviewed their driving record
 - understand in relation to a vehicle operated by the service they must:
 - report any damage or maintenance needs to the Nominated Supervisor
 - ensure there's enough fuel to complete the trip (eg refuel when the tank moves below half full) and never refuel when children are in the vehicle.

Where bus companies are hired to transport children the Nominated Supervisor will discuss the company's policy on driver qualifications, driving history and maintenance procedures etc. to make sure they have reliable and consistent safety processes in place.

Safety Restraints

Seatbelts and restraints systems will be used as outlined in this policy which is based on the National Road Rules. We note the Australian Design Rules set out vehicle safety requirements including requirements for seatbelts and child restraint anchorage points.

Educators will assist motor vehicle drivers and bus drivers to ensure each child is transported safely at all times. The service understands that drivers of small vehicles carrying up to 12 people are responsible for road safety and ensuring each child under 16 is properly seated and restrained. All



educators, however, have an equal responsibility to assist the driver and check that each child is seated and restrained appropriately using the following guidelines.

Vehicles built to carry up to 12 people including the driver

Generally, educators and volunteers will follow the restraint arrangements which follow to ensure the safety of children. However, if a child is too small for a restraint specified for their age, they will be kept in their current restraint for as long as necessary. Likewise, if a child is too large for a restraint specified for their age, they may move to the next level of restraint.

Educators and volunteers will also comply with any current medical plans or certificates signed by a registered medical practitioner that states the child should not be restrained as outlined below while travelling in a vehicle (or bus) for medical reasons. Educators and volunteers will comply with the conditions in the medical certificate, and where possible, ensure the child travels in a rear seat. Medical certificates must have an expiry date.

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor will ensure all safety restraints are safe, labelled with Australian Standard (AS/NZS1754) (restraints purchased overseas do not comply with Australian Standards and are not compatible with Australian vehicles), and have been professionally installed or checked by authorised fitter. They will also ensure there are sufficient restraints to meet the safety restraints requirements under the national Road Rules as detailed below.

Educators and volunteers will ensure:

- Each child under seven is secured in a child restraint or booster seat with seat belt or safety harness when travelling
- Children from four years to under seven use a forward facing restraint or booster seat. A forward-facing child restraint offers better protection as long as the child fits in it
- Children from four to under seven years only sit in the front row of a vehicle with two or more rows if all other seats are occupied by children the same age or younger in an approved restraint
- The number of children transported does not exceed vehicle rated seating capacities
- Children do not share a seat belt or child restraint
- All adults use available safety belts.

Buses

Buses are defined as vehicles built to carry over 12 people including the driver. The Nominated Supervisor, educators and volunteers will:

- ensure seatbelts/restraints are used if they're required to be fitted
- ensure seating capacity displayed on the compliance plate is not exceeded
- consider whether an alternative mode of transport should be used to ensure children's safety where restraints are not available.



Transport Procedures

To ensure children's safety all employees and volunteers will implement the **Transport Procedure** or **Transport Procedure Excursions** when transporting children to and from destinations. Under no circumstances will any child be transported if all of the guidelines and procedures in this Policy are not met.

Maintenance

To ensure vehicles owned or operated by the service are safe and hygienic, where relevant the Nominated Supervisor will:

- follow the recognised service schedule and organise an annual mechanical inspection, or sight evidence vehicle has had mechanical inspection within the last 12 months
- look for obvious maintenance issues eg bald tyres
- pay insurance, registration etc or sight evidence vehicle is registered and insured
- ensure check oil, water and tyres every month
- ensure vehicle is regularly cleaned
- ensure children can't access vehicles when they're not being used.

Children embarking and disembarking a vehicle

A nominated supervisor or a staff member (other than the driver) must:

- be present when children embark and disembark a vehicle at the service premises
- account for each child when they embark and disembark a vehicle at the service premises
- complete a check of the interior of the vehicle after all children have disembarked at the service premises to ensure there are no children left on the vehicle.

Record keeping and accounting

The approved provider and nominated supervisor must ensure that records are kept for regular transportation that:

- confirm each child was accounted for when embarking and disembarking the vehicle at the service premises
- state how each child was accounted for at the service premises
- state that the interior of vehicle was checked after all children have disembarked at the service premises.

The records must be made immediately and include the time, date, full name and signature of the person/s responsible for:

- accounting for the children during embarking and disembarking of the vehicle
- conducting the vehicle check after children have disembarked.



Car Park and Driveway Safety

Young children are at risk from moving vehicles in low speed 'off road' locations such as driveways and car parks. Studies have shown for example, there are large 'blind zones' behind many vehicles where drivers cannot see what's happening. The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and staff will implement measures to remove or control the risks posed by any car park on the premises. They will complete a risk assessment to identify and control risks and may implement measures such as:

- speed signs with maximum car park speed limits
- parking signs advising parking limited to eg 5 minutes or reverse parking required
- one way signs so all vehicles drive through car park in the same direction
- witches hats to control/block access in particular areas
- supervising area during drop offs and pick ups
- encouraging people collecting children to walk around vehicle before they leave.

Road Safety

Educators understand that children are vulnerable road users. They may think they can handle crossing a road by themselves but:

- are easily distracted and focus on only one aspect of what is happening
- are smaller and harder for drivers to see
- are less predictable than other pedestrians
- cannot accurately judge the speed and distance of moving vehicles
- cannot accurately predict the direction sounds are coming from
- are unable to cope with sudden changes in traffic conditions
- do not understand abstract ideas like road safety
- are unable to identify safe places to cross the road
- tend to act inconsistently in and around traffic.

Educators will closely supervise all children when outside the service near roads. They will hold children's hands, or if not practical to do this for all children, implement measures which keep children safe eg ensure children hold on to a rope at all times and wear high visibility vests.

Educators will regularly integrate learning about road safety into the curriculum. They will also provide information to families about children and road safety including:

- the key role families have in educating their children about road safety and the close supervision children require in and around traffic to keep them safe
- opportunities in day-to-day routines to discuss road safety with children eg on the way to the shops, service or school, while crossing roads (when and why it is safe to cross)
- the dangers involved in leaving children unattended in cars



- danger areas like car-parks, traffic lights, pedestrian crossings and driveways. In relation to driveways, it's vital to:
 - *always supervise children* whenever moving a vehicle ie hold their hands. *Put children securely in the vehicle with you* if you're the only adult around, even if moving just a small distance
 - *Encourage children to play in safer areas away from the driveway & cars.* The driveway is like a small road and should not be used as a play area
 - *Make child access to the driveway difficult* eg use security doors, fencing or gates.

Related Policies

Administration of Authorised Medication Policy

Delivery and Collection of Children Policy

Excursion Policy

Incident Injury Trauma and Illness Policy

Staffing Arrangements Policy

Sources

National Quality Standard

2.2.1 Supervision - Supervision At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

6.2.1 Transitions - Continuity of learning and transitions for each child are supported by sharing relevant information and clarifying responsibilities

7.1.2 Management systems - Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service

7.1.3 Roles and responsibilities - Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision-making and operation of the service

Education and Care Services National Law

165 Offence to inadequately supervise children

167 Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

Education and Care Services National Regulations

4 Definitions

99 Children leaving the education and care premises

102B Transport risk assessment must be conducted before service transports child

102C Conduct of risk assessment for transporting of children by the education and care service

102D Authorisation for service to transport children



St Leonards Primary School OSHC
Jervois Street, Glenelg North, South Australia 5045
T: 08 8294 1990
Email: oshc.stleonards865@schools.sa.edu.au

168(2)(ga) Education and care service must have policies and procedures in relation to transportation if service transports or arranges transportation of children other than as part of excursion

Other

National Road Rules Model

National Guidelines for Safe Restraint of Children Travelling in Motor Vehicles – Kidsafe

Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989 and Australian Design Rules Cwth

Australian Road Rules

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Approved Provider, Supervisors, Employees, Families and any committee members.

Reviewed: May 2023

Date for next review: May 2024



Transport record of children embarking and disembarking the vehicle

Transport reason: _____ Date: ___/___/___ Time: _____ am/pm

Person responsible for conducting the checklist: _____ Number of children transported: _____

Signature of the person/s responsible for: _____ Date: ___/___/___

#	Child's Name	Embarking check (Child sighted and responded to their name and seated in the vehicle)	Disembarking check (Child sighted and responded to their name as they exit the vehicle)	Confirm child is in the service after transport. (Child sighted and responded to their name)
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Conducting the vehicle check after children have disembarked.

- Inspected the whole interior of vehicle and no child present.



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- All seats in the vehicle checked and no child present.
- Under all seats checked and no child present.
- All storage areas checked and no child present.

Name of person conducting the post transport vehicle inspection: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____