

SUPERVISION POLICY

February 2020

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
120	Educators who are under 18 to be supervised
121	Application of Division 3
122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
123	Educator to child ratios-Centre based services
126	Centre based services-general educator qualifications
166	Children not to be alone with visitors
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
176	Time to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authorities
264	General qualifications for educators – Centre based

Purpose

The Approved Provider/ Nominated Supervisor must ensure that children at the Education and Care Service are adequately supervised, having regard to their ages and ratio requirements set out in the National Regulations (**National Regulation 122, 123, 271**).

All educators under the age of 18 will always be supervised when working with the children (**National Regulation 120**).

Strategies

Indoors

Supervising Educators/Staff should give their attention to the children and not to other duties. When children are resting or sleeping, they will be supervised at all times having regard to their age and ratio requirements. Educators/staff ensuring that sleeping infants are closely monitored and that all sleeping children are within hearing range. During hand washing and/or toilet times children will be supervised in the bathroom area. Toddlers and children undergoing toilet training will not be left unsupervised in the bathroom.

Rooms should be set up in a way that enables educators from all angles to effectively supervise children wherever they might stand or sit with children. Where there are areas to hide – educators must be nearby to have visual of all children in that area.

Outdoors

When supervising outdoors, Educators/staff will position themselves to maximise their view of as much play area as possible. One Educator/staff member should be positioned alongside the climbing equipment as often as possible. Where there is any water activity provided, one educator/staff member will supervise this area at all times. Except for brief discussions or concerns regarding children or matters relating to the service, Educators/staff will not congregate outside.

Ratio requirements to be met in NSW are as follows:

- Children under 2 years of age must have a 1:4 ratio
- Children 2-3 years of age must have a 1:5 ratio
- Children 3-5 years of age must have a 1:10 ratio
- Children over preschool/school age is a 1:15 ratio

Mixed age groups are allowed in the service as long as the lower ratio is maintained. Occasionally an older child may visit a lower ratio room such as a 3-year-old going into the 2-3 room. In this case the 2-3 ratio of 1:5 is maintained.

Responsibilities of the Approved Provider

The Approved Provider must ensure that children at the Education and Care Service are adequately supervised. They must ensure that educators/staff are only counted in ratios if they are working directly with children and have or work towards an approved early childhood qualification (**National Regulation 13, 122, 126 (b)**).

Anyone who is supervising children should be:

- Sympathetic to the welfare of children
- Have adequate knowledge, understanding and experience of children so as to be capable of meeting their needs
- Able to adequately care for and understand where supervision is required
- Of suitable age, health and personality to care for children
- Of good character
- Have received suitable training in the proper care of children

The Approved Provider must have regard to the size and composition of groups in which children are being educated and cared for by the service.

The Approved Provider must ensure that no member of staff who is supervising children both supervises children and performs other duties at the same time if those duties would adversely affect the quality of supervision.

- Minimum Educator qualification requirements are recognised and adhered to according to legislative requirements.
- The Service maintains the required educator-to-child ratio working directly with children at all times, based on the ages and number of children being educated and cared for at the Service.

AGE GROUP	EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIO
For children from Birth to 24 months of age	1:4
For children aged 24 months and less than 36 months of age	1:5
For children aged 36 months of age or over	1:10

The above table contains educator to child ratio requirements for Centre based services in NSW

Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor

- The Nominated Supervisor will ensure that the Education and Care Services National Regulation, Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act and the National Quality Standards in relation to the supervision of children are adhered to at all times.
- All Educators, permanent and relief staff, will be made aware of this policy regarding adequate and responsible supervision of children during their staff induction.
- Staff shifts and routines will at all times provide for enough staff to be available for the adequate supervision of children.
- In any situation where adequate supervision of children is compromised, any educator/staff member on tea or lunch breaks must be prepared to be called on duty.
- Ensure that all Educators are aware of all children and their environment
- Ensure Educators are aware if they need to move away from the children, another Educator is to replace them.
- Develop, maintain and regularly review a supervision plan and strategies for both the indoor and outdoor areas.
- Adopt accepted best practice; ensuring no staff member is left alone with a child to support child protection protocols.
- Ensure that a Risk Assessment and Management Plan is carried out before an authorisation is requested for an excursion. The risk assessment will consider and identify the number of adults required to ensure continuous adequate supervision throughout the excursion.
- Ensure that parents are notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in a serious incident/situation at the Service. Details of the incident/situation are to be recorded on the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.
- Ensure that if the incident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety, and/or wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours.

Responsibilities of the Educators

- All educators will follow and implement the supervision plans that the Nominated Supervisor or other responsible person has created.
- If there are any concerns raised amongst educators regarding supervision or areas of concern, please share with the Nominated Supervisor.
- Have a sound understanding of their duty of care and responsibilities in ensuring children are within a safe environment.
- Ensure any educators under the age of 18 years old are never left alone with children.
- Ensure that no child is left alone while eating or at nappy change and toileting times.
- Supervise children during rest time in accordance with the Sleep, Rest and Relaxation Policy.
- Ensure that hazardous equipment and chemicals are inaccessible to children.
- Continuously scan and look around the area to observe all the children in the vicinity.

Responsibilities of the Families

- Families are encouraged to share any concerns they may have in regard to the supervision of their child or other children in the service. Additionally, please share any concerns you might have about ratios not being upheld at all times.

Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/acts/2010-104.pdf>

Department of Education

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care>

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

National Quality Framework (NQF)

<http://acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/>

United Nations Convention on the rights of the child

<https://www.unicef.org.au/>

Related Telephone Numbers

- Early Childhood Directorate - 1800 619 113
- ACECQA - 1300 422 327
- Kidsafe - 9845 0890

Date	Amendment	Notes of amendment
12 th July 2018	Policy Created	- Created
8 th August 2019	Policy review	- Ratio over preschool age added
20 th February 2020	Policy reviewed & amended	-Additional Points added -Irrelevant information deleted -Grammar errors fixed -Formatting -NQS & Regulations Added

This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Date:	20 th February 2020
Version:	003
Last Amended By:	Natalie Payne
Next Review:	July 2020
Position:	Educational Leader

