

ACCEPTANCE AND REFUSAL AUTHORISATION POLICY

Under the National Law and National Regulations, early childhood services are required to obtain written authorisation from parents or guardian for some circumstances, to ensure that the health, safety, wellbeing, and best interests of the child are met and upheld.

An authorisation is given where a person who has legal responsibility for a child gives permission to another person to do something or to make a decision on that person's behalf. Authorisations are usually authenticated by a signature- either in written form or as an electronic signature. All authorisation and refusals are to be kept in the child's enrolment record.

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.
2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
94	Exception to authorisation requirement- anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
99	Children leaving the education and care service
102	Authorisation for excursions
102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
157	Access for parents
160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider
161	Authorisation to be kept in enrolment record

168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures must be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
172	Notification of change to policies and procedures

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of Medication Policy Anaphylaxis Management Policy Asthma Management Policy Child Protection Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy Diabetes Management Policy Enrolment Policy	Epilepsy Management Policy Excursion/Incursion Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Medical Conditions Policy Nutrition Food Safety Policy Orientation of Families Policy Safe Transportation Policy Sun Safe Policy Water Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

Our priority is ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children. We aim to ensure that all educators, staff and volunteers are consistent in how authorisations are managed and understand what does or does not constitute a correct authorisation, which consequently may lead to a refusal. Our governance and quality management processes are effective and transparent and meet all regulatory requirements. Decisions around refusing an authorisation will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Service in discussion with the Nominated Supervisor, Police or other authorities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to families, staff, management, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our Service will ensure we comply with the current *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, and have policies and procedures in place in relation to the acceptance and refusal of authorisations which require parent or guardian written authorisation to be provided in matters including:

- Administration of medication to children
- Administration of medical treatment, dental treatment, and general first aid treatment
- Emergency Ambulance transportation
- Transportation- including regular outings and regular transportation
- Excursions, including regular outings
- Incursion attendance
- Taking of photographs by people other than educators
- Water based activities
- Enrolment of children, including providing details of persons nominated to authorise consent for medical treatment, to collect children from the service, or to provide authority for the child to be taken outside the service
- Children leaving the premises in the care of someone other than a parent or guardian

MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT:

- the *Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy* is reviewed and maintained by Service management and adhered to at all times by educators and staff
- policies and procedures are readily accessible to families, nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators and staff and available for inspection
- parent/guardians are provided with a copy of relevant policies for our Service or are aware of how they can be accessed
- an enrolment record is kept for each child that includes authorisations signed by a parent/carer or a person authorised
 - to consent to medical treatment of the child if relevant
 - to authorise the education and care service to transport the child or arrange transportation for the child
- all authorisations relating to each child is in their enrolment record
- documentation relating to authorisations contains:
 - the name of the child enrolled in the service
 - date
 - signature of the child's parent/carer and authorised nominee as named on the enrolment form
- all staff understand circumstances that may lead to refusal of an authorisation
- all educators and staff follow the policies and procedures of our Service
- the right of refusal is exercised if written or verbal authorisations do not comply with National Regulations or Child Protection Legislation. If an authorisation is refused by the Service, it is best practice to document:
 - the details of the authorisation
 - why the authorisation was refused, and
 - actions taken by the service. For example: if the service refused an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the service as they were under the influence of alcohol, the action taken to ensure that the child was collected (Refer to *Refusal of Authorisation Record*)
- all parents/carers have completed the authorised person's section of their child's enrolment form including authorised nominees (refer to *Enrolment Policy*), and that the form is signed and dated before the child commences at the Service
- parents/guardians are provided with a copy of relevant policies for our Service or are aware of how they can be accessed
- attendance records are maintained for all children attending the Service
- a written record of all visitors to the Service, including time of arrival and departure and reasons for visit is documented
- where a child requires medication to be administered by educators/staff, that an *Administration of Medication Record* is completed and authorisation provided by the parent/carer or authorised nominee and included within the child's record (Refer to *Administration of Medication Policy*)
- educators/staff do not administer medication without the written authorisation of parent/carer or authorised nominee named in the enrolment record as authorised to consent to the medical treatment of the child, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency (refer to *Enrolment Form, Administration of Medication Policy, Incident, Injury, Accident and Trauma Policy, Emergency Evacuation Policy, Asthma Management Policy, Anaphylaxis Management Policy, Diabetes Management Policy, and Epilepsy Management Policy*).
- where a child requires medication to be administered by educators/staff, that an *Administration of Medication Record* is completed, and authorisation provided by the parent/guardian or authorised nominee and included within the child's record (Refer to *Administration of Medication Policy*)

- when a child requires emergency medical treatment for conditions such as anaphylaxis or asthma compliance for authorisation is waived. In accordance with National Regulations (R. 93) the Service can administer medication in these circumstances without authorisation. If these situations occur Management will be required to contact the parent/guardian as soon as practicable after the medication has been administered and emergency services. Notification to the Regulatory Authority is required within 24 hours of a serious incident
- educators and staff only allow a child to participate in regular outings and regular transportation with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record
- educators and staff allow a child to participate in excursions only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record is received and documented (refer to *Excursion Policy* and *Safe Transportation Policy*)
- educators/staff allow a child to depart the Service only with:
 - a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or
 - with a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent; or authorised nominee; or
 - is taken on an excursion; or
 - in the case of a medical emergency or another emergency (Refer to
 - (Refer to *Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy* and *Emergency Evacuation Policy*).
- there are procedures in place if an inappropriate person, or a person who does not appear to be fit to take care of the child attempts to collect the child from the Service or poses a risk to the safety of children or staff (refer to *Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises*).

EDUCATORS WILL:

- follow the policies and procedures of the Service
- ensure that written authorisation is provided by the parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record for a regular outing or regular transportation
- ensure that parents/guardians sign and date permission/authorisation forms for excursions prior to the excursion being implemented
- allow a child to participate in an excursion only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee
- check that parents/guardians or an authorised nominee sign the attendance record as their child arrives and departs from the Service
- administer medication only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee as per the *Administration of Medication Record*, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma, anaphylaxis.
- allow a child to depart from the Service only with:
 - with a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent; or authorised nominee; or
 - is taken on an excursion; or
 - in the case of a medical emergency or another emergency (Refer to *Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy* and *Emergency Evacuation Policy*).
- follow procedures if an inappropriate person attempts to collect a child from the Service and poses a risk to the safety of the children and staff (for example, an intoxicated person)
- inform the Approved Provider when a written authorisation does not meet the requirements outlined in Service's policies.

FAMILIES WILL:

- read and comply with the policies and procedures of the Service
- complete and sign the authorised nominee section of their child's enrolment form before their child commences at the Service
- ensure that changes to nominated authorised persons are provided to the Service in a timely manner
- advise nominated authorised persons that they will require photo identification (such as a driver's licence) in order to collect their child from the Service
- sign and date permission/authorisation forms for regular transportation and regular outings
- sign and date permission/authorisation forms for excursions
- sign the attendance record as their child arrives and departs from the Service
- provide written authorisation on the *Administration of Medication Form* when their child requires medication to be administered by educators/staff, including signing and dating it for inclusion in the child's medication records
- provide completed Medical Management Plans and Action Plans where relevant for their child
- be familiar with circumstances where authorisations may be refused/not applicable.

AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENTS

Authorisation documents are required for the following situations and must have details recorded as specified:

<p>Administration of Medication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • <i>Administration of Medication Record</i> is signed by a parent or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication • Name of the medication to be administered • Clearly indicate time and date the medication is to be administered • Dosage of the medication to be administered • Method of dosage (e.g.: oral or inhaled) • Period of authorisation (actual days and dates: from and to) • Date the authorisation is signed • Medication must be in its original container and bearing the correct child's name • Medication is not past its expiry or use-by date • Medication is administered in accordance with any instructions attached to the medication or provided by a registered medical practitioner. • A second person checks the signed <i>Administration of Medication Record</i>, checks the dosage of the medication, and witnesses its administration • The educator administering medication and the witness must write their full name and sign the medication record • Details of the administration must be recorded in the medication record
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<p>Medical treatment of the child including transportation by an ambulance service</p> <p>(Included and authorised initially as part of the child's enrolment record):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Authorisation to seek medical treatment for the child from a registered medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service • Authorisation for the transportation of the child by an ambulance service • Name, address and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner or medical service • Child's Medicare number • Name of the parent or guardian providing authorisation • Relationship to the child
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<p>Emergency Medical Treatment</p> <p>(included and authorised initially as part of the child's enrolment record or as updates during enrolment):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service is able to seek emergency medical assistance for a child as required (i.e. medical practitioner, ambulance or hospital) without seeking further authorisation from a parent or guardian in the case of an emergency, including for emergencies relating to medical conditions noted on the enrolment form.
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<p>Collection of Children</p> <p>(included and authorised initially as part of the child's enrolment record or as updated during enrolment):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Name of the parent/carer or the guardian of the child or the authorised nominee on the enrolment form providing authorisation • Name of the person/s authorised by a parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the premises • State relationship to the child of the persons authorised to collect the child from the premises • Signature of the person providing authorisation and date of authorisation
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<p>Excursions</p>	<p>The authorisation must state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Date of the excursion • Reason for the excursion • Proposed destination for the excursion • Method of transport to be used • Route to be taken to and from the excursion • Period of time away from premise- include time leaving premise and time returning to premise • Proposed activities to be undertaken by the child during the excursion • Anticipated number of children likely to be attending the excursion • Ratio of Educators attending the excursion to the number of children attending the excursion • Number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children on the excursion (including parents, students, volunteers) • Statement that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the service • Name of the parent or guardian providing authorisation • Relationship to the child • Signature of the person providing authorisation and date of authorisation • Details of any water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities (to be included in risk assessment). • Items that should be taken on the excursion
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<p>Sunscreen and Insect Repellent application</p> <p>(Permission to apply sunscreen is included on enrolment form)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of child • Permission authorised for staff to apply SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen supplied by the service or • Permission authorised for staff to apply SPF 30+ or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen supplied by parent/guardian • Parent signature and date • Material Safety Data Sheet required for all products • Permission authorised for staff to apply insect repellent supplied by the service or • Permission authorised for staff to apply insect repellent supplied by the parent/guardian
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<p>Confirmation of Authorisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All authorisation forms received (including the initial enrolment form) are to be checked for completion • All authorisations (excluding the initial enrolment form) are checked to ensure that the authoriser (name and signature) is the nominated parent or guardian a person named on the enrolment form as having authority to authorise • If incomplete or inappropriately signed, the authorisation form should be returned to the parent or guardian for correction • Children will be suspended from any activity requiring authorisation until the appropriate form has been correctly completed and signed.
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CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with children, families, staff, educators and management.

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. *Acceptance and refusal of authorisations*.

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Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

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