Supervision of Children Policy

**Quality Area:** 2: Children’s health and safety  
**Standard:** 2.3: Each child is protected  
**Element:** 2.3.1: Children are adequately supervised at all times

Purpose

This policy will provide guidelines to ensure:
- the provision of a safe and secure environment for all children at Ellie V Pullin Preschool
- adequate supervision of all enrolled children is maintained at all times.

Policy Statement

1. **Values**

Ellie V Pullin Preschool is committed to:
- providing adequate supervision of all enrolled children in all aspects of Ellie V Pullin Preschool’s program
- ensuring all children are directly and actively supervised by educators employed or engaged by Ellie V Pullin Preschool
- maintaining a duty of care (refer to Definitions) to all children at Ellie V Pullin Preschool
- ensuring there is an understanding of the shared legal responsibility and accountability between, and a commitment by, all persons to implement the procedures and practices outlined in this policy.

2. **Scope**

This policy applies to Ellie V Pullin Preschool, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Ellie V Pullin Preschool, including during offsite excursions and activities.

3. **Background and Legislation**

**Background**
Supervision is essential in ensuring that children’s safety is protected in Ellie V Pullin Preschool environment. Supervision is an integral part of the care and education of children and requires staff members to make ongoing assessments of the child and the activities in which they are
engaged. Active supervision assists in the development of positive relationships between educators, children and their families, and informs ongoing assessment and future planning. Adequate supervision requires teamwork and good communication between educators.

**Legislation and standards**

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 101, 168, 176
- Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
- Element 2.3.1: Children are adequately supervised at all times
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

4. Definitions

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the General Definitions section of this manual.

**Adequate supervision:** (In relation to this policy) **supervision** entails all children (individuals and groups) in all areas of Ellie V Pullin Preschool, being in sight and/or hearing of an educator at all times including during toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines. Services are required to comply with the legislative requirements for educator-to-child ratios at all times. Supervision contributes to protecting children from hazards that may emerge in play, including hazards created by the equipment used.

Adequate supervision refers to constant, active and diligent supervision of every child at Ellie V Pullin Preschool. Adequate supervision requires that educators are always in a position to observe each child, respond to individual needs, and immediately intervene if necessary. Variables affecting supervision levels include:

- number, age and abilities of children
- number and positioning of educators
- current activity of each child
- areas in which the children are engaged in an activity (visibility and accessibility)
- developmental profile of each child and of the group of children
- experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
- need for educators to move between areas (effective communication strategies).

**Attendance Record:** Kept by Ellie V Pullin Preschool to record details of each child attending Ellie V Pullin Preschool including name, time of arrival and departure, signature of person delivering and collecting the child or of the Nominated Supervisor or educator (Regulation 158(1)).

**Duty of care:** A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of organisations to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonable foreseeable risk of injury.

**Hazard:** A source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or a combination of these.

**Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record:** Contains details of any incident, injury, trauma or illness that occurs while the child is being educated and cared for by Ellie V Pullin
Preschool. Any incident, injury, trauma or illness must be recorded as soon as is practicable but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence. Details required include the:

- name and age of the child
- circumstances leading to the incident, injury, trauma or illness (including any symptoms)
- time and date
- details of action taken by Ellie V Pullin Preschool including any medication administered, first aid provided or medical personnel contacted
- details of any witnesses
- names of any person Ellie V Pullin Preschool notified or attempted to notify, and the time and date of this
- signature of the person making the entry, and time and date of this.

These details need to be kept for the period of time specified in Regulation 183. A sample Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record is available on the ACECQA website.

**Notifiable incident:** An incident involving workplace health and safety that is required by law to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria. Notification is required for incidents that result in death or serious injury/illness, or dangerous occurrences. For a complete list of incidents that must be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, refer to the Guide to Incident Notification on the WorkSafe Victoria website: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)

**Serious incident:** A serious incident is defined in regulation 12 as:

- The death of a child while being educated and cared for by Ellie V Pullin Preschool
- Any incident involving an injury or trauma, or the illness of a child that requires or ought to have required:
  - Attention of a registered medical practitioner, or
  - Attendance at a hospital
- Examples include whooping cough, broken limbs, anaphylaxis reaction
- Any incident requiring attendance by emergency services
- A circumstance where a child appears to be missing, is unaccounted for, has been removed from Ellie V Pullin Preschool contrary to the regulations, or has been locked in or out of Ellie V Pullin Preschool’s premises.

The Approved Provider must notify the Regulatory Authority (DET) in writing within 24 hours of a serious incident occurring at Ellie V Pullin Preschool (Regulation 176(2)(a)). The Notification of Serious Incident form (available on the ACECQA website) is to be completed and submitted online using the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS). Records are required to be retained for the periods specified in Regulation 183.

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**Ellie V Pullin Policy and Procedures**

**Ellie V Pullin Pre-School is responsible for:**

- complying with the legislated educator-to-child ratios at all times *(Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 169(1), Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 123, 355, 357, 360)*
• counting only those educators who are working directly with children at Ellie V Pullin Preschool in the educator-to-child ratios (Regulation 122)
• ensuring a minimum of two educators are rostered on duty at all times children are in attendance at Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• ensuring that children being educated and cared for by Ellie V Pullin Preschool are adequately supervised (refer to Definitions) at all times they are in the care of that service (Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 165(1))
• considering the design and arrangement of Ellie V Pullin Preschool environment to support active supervision. This may be supported by a supervision plan (refer to Attachment 1 – Sample supervision risk management template)
• identifying high-risk activities, including excursions (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy), through a risk management process, and implementing strategies to improve children’s safety e.g. increasing adult-to-child ratios above regulatory requirements (Regulation 101)
• ensuring supervision standards are maintained during educator breaks, including during lunch breaks
• providing safe play spaces for children, which allow for adequate supervision, including safe fall zones, good traffic flow, maintenance of buildings and equipment, and minimising trip hazards
• providing staff rosters, and casual and relief staff lists
• developing procedures to inform casual and relief staff about the supervision strategies outlined in this policy
• notifying the Regulatory Authority (DET) within 24 hours of:
  • a serious incident (refer to Definitions) occurring at Ellie V Pullin Preschool, including when a child appears to be missing or cannot be accounted for (Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 174(2)(a), Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 12, 176(2)(a))
  • a complaint alleging that the health, safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised or that the law has been breached (Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 174(2)(b), Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 175(2)(c), 176(2)(b))
  • notifying parents/guardians of a serious incident (refer to Definitions) involving their child as soon as possible, but not more than 24 hours after the occurrence
  • reporting notifiable incidents (refer to Definitions) to WorkSafe Victoria
• evaluating supervision procedures regularly in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor, educators and management representatives.

Nominated supervisor is responsible for:

• ensuring that the prescribed educator-to-child ratios are met at all times and that educators have required qualifications (Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 169(3)&(4), Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 123, 355, 357, 360)
• counting only those educators who are working directly with children at Ellie V Pullin Preschool in the educator-to-child ratios (Regulation 122)
• ensuring a minimum of two educators are rostered on duty at all times children are in attendance at Ellie V Pullin Preschool
ensuring that children being educated and cared for by Ellie V Pullin Preschool are adequately supervised (refer to Definitions) at all times they are in the care of that service (Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 165(2))

considering the design and arrangement of Ellie V Pullin Preschool environment to support active supervision. This may be supported by a supervision plan (refer to Attachment 1 – Sample supervision risk management template)

identifying high-risk activities, including excursions (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy), through a risk management process, and implementing strategies to improve children’s safety e.g. increasing adult-to-child ratios above regulatory requirements (Regulation 101(2))

ensuring supervision standards are maintained during educator breaks, including during lunch breaks

evaluating supervision practices regularly in consultation with other educators and Ellie V Pullin Preschool.

Certified supervisors, educators and other staff are responsible for:

• providing adequate supervision (refer to Definitions) at all times
• being alert to, and aware of, risks and hazards and the potential for incidents and injury throughout Ellie V Pullin Preschool and not just within their own immediate area, and using supervision skills to reduce or prevent incident or injury to children and adults
• developing procedures to ensure that all children are accounted for, including by referring to attendance records (refer to Definitions) at various times throughout the day, both before and after outdoor activities
• adjusting supervision strategies to suit Ellie V Pullin Preschool environment, educator skills, and age mix, dynamics and size of the group of children being supervised and the activities being undertaken
• maintaining a duty of care to children at all times (including when the child is on the premises but not signed into or out of the care of Ellie V Pullin Preschool and the parent/guardian or person delivering or collecting the child is responsible for supervising that child)
• communicating with other educators regularly to ensure adequate supervision at all times
• informing parents/guardians and volunteers at Ellie V Pullin Preschool about the Supervision of Children Policy and the ways that they can adhere to its procedures
• ensuring doors and gates are closed at all times to prevent children from leaving Ellie V Pullin Preschool unaccompanied or from accessing unsupervised/unsafe areas of Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• deciding when to interrupt and redirect children’s play to ensure safety at all times
• identifying opportunities to support and extend children’s learning while also recognising their need to play without adult intervention
• conducting daily safety checks of the environment to assess safety and to remove hazards
• arranging the environment (equipment, furniture and experiences) to ensure effective supervision while also allowing children to access quiet/private spaces
• providing direct and constant supervision when a child is near water (refer to Water Safety Policy)
• conducting a risk assessment prior to an excursion to identify risks to health, safety or wellbeing and specifying how these risks will be managed and minimised (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)
• notifying Ellie V Pullin Preschool in the event of a serious incident (refer to Definitions) occurring at Ellie V Pullin Preschool or of a complaint being made alleging the health, safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised
• assisting Ellie V Pullin Preschool and the Nominated Supervisor to evaluate supervision practices regularly
• supervising children’s daily departure from Ellie V Pullin Preschool and being aware of the person who has authority to collect the child (refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy).

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

• ensuring educators are aware that their children have arrived or departed
• ensuring that doors and gates, including playground gates, are closed after entry or exit
• being aware of the movement of other children near gates and doors when entering or exiting Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• enabling educators to supervise children at all times by making arrangements to speak with them outside program hours
• supervising their own children before signing them into the program and after they have signed them out of the program
• supervising other children in their care, including siblings, while attending or assisting at Ellie V Pullin Preschool.

Volunteers and students, while at Ellie V Pullin Preschool, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

Evaluation

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, Ellie V Pullin Preschool will:
• regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
• record and monitor complaints and incidents in relation to the supervision of children and amend the policy and procedures as required
• keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
• revise the policy and procedures as part of Ellie V Pullin Preschool's policy review cycle, or as required
• notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.
Sources and other related policies

**Sources**

- Guide to the National Quality Standard (ACECQA)
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (ACECQA)

**Service policies**

- Child Protection Policy
- Complaints and Grievances Policy
- Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy
- Excursions and Service Events Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Interactions with Children Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Staffing Policy

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Supervision risk management template

**Authorisation**

This policy was approved and passed by the Ellie V Pullin Committee of Management and adopted by Ellie V Pullin Pre-School on:

16th November 2014

Authorised by: ____________________________ Julie Simpson [President]

Authorised by: ____________________________ Betty Krober [Nominated Supervisor]

Witnessed by: _____________________________

Review Date: November 2017
Attachment 1

Supervision risk management template

This template is designed as a tool to be developed and used by all educators involved in the supervision of children at Ellie V Pullin Preschool, and should be reviewed regularly and made available to all staff working in the program. There may be additional areas that your service will want to include in the Supervision risk management template.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/equipment</th>
<th>Potential supervision risk</th>
<th>Action to reduce or eliminate risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed equipment e.g. swings, fixed climbing equipment, slides etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layout of the internal and/or external areas of Ellie V Pullin Preschool including a description of areas that provide challenges to supervision e.g. children’s bathrooms, L-shaped playgrounds or playrooms, behind structures or features in the playground etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff supervision responsibilities including: quiet/active learning spaces; during indoor and outdoor programs; specific programmed experiences and also including the supervision of students and volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential hazards e.g. protruding tree roots, small pieces of equipment etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival and departure of children</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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