

Providing a Child Safe Environment



Policy

Janelle Street Centre will ensure that children are adequately supervised at all times, organise rooms and environments to minimise risks to children, monitor and minimise hazards and safety risks in the environment, implement our *Child Protection* and our *Illness, Accident, Injury, Trauma and Emergency Policy*; and take every reasonable precaution to protect children being educated and cared for by the centre from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

Background

Janelle Street Centre recognises the importance of providing a safe environment for all children at our centre. All children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health and safety. We will continue to improve our child safe culture and practices (Regulation 168 h (i) (ii))

Practices

| Role | Responsibility |
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| Approved Provider | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that enough educators are employed to ensure adequate supervision of children at all times. This includes educators being aware of where children are, identifying any potential hazards and intercepting when necessary. Educators are to place themselves where they can adequately see all children especially if there are blind spots in the environment. • Adopt policies and procedures to protect children being educated and cared for by the centre from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury. |
| Nominated Supervisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up rosters to ensure that adequate numbers of educators are on duty to meet ratio and qualification requirements and to ensure adequate supervision of children at all times • Engage casual educators as appropriate • Ensure educators are aware of the need for adequate supervision of children at all times. This may include the development of supervision charts for outdoor or indoor areas • Adopt policies designed to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury and ensure that all educators are aware of these policies and procedures are implemented. • Ensure the safe use of online environments. Online environment refers to places reached by the internet eg YouTube. • Give Families the opportunity to discuss any concerns in regard to Child Safety. • Ensure all educators have undertaken current child protection training |

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| <p>Educators</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequately supervise children within their room/group at all times as per Supervision plans and or direction from Nominated Supervisor, Responsible person or Room Leader. • Supervise all yard areas so that all children are in sight and hearing • Inform the Responsible Person whenever supervision is inadequate within their room to ensure the health and safety of all children. • Be aware of any family members that are within the Centre and be aware of Family Members interactions with Educators, other families and other children • Ensure the safe use of online environments by ensuring that they are accessing age appropriate links (YouTube) and documenting in programs the online environment and the link to such things as videos on YouTube • Respond to any concerns, disclosures or allegations by reporting them to the relevant authorities • Limit online environment by ensuring that they follow <i>Munch and Move</i> recommended screen time. 0-1 No screen time 1-2 No more than 1 hour 3-5 No more than 1 hour in a 24 hour period |
| <p>Families</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the safe use of online environment. • Will have the opportunity to meet with the Nominated Supervisor in regard to any Concerns of child Safety. |

Organisation of Rooms and Environments

| <p>Role</p> | <p>Responsibility</p> |
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| <p>Approved Provider</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sufficient allowance within budgets to allow for the replacement of worn and damaged equipment and resources which may be a safety risk for children; and • Make sufficient allowance within budgets to allow the adequate maintenance of all indoor and outdoor environments. |
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| Responsible Person | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise rooms and groupings to enable adequate supervision of children and so to minimise the risk to children; and Organise repairs and maintenance to equipment and environments in a timely manner. |
| Educators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise indoor and outdoor spaces to ensure risks to the health and safety are minimised Remove any potential hazards from indoor and outdoor areas Inform the Responsible Person as soon as possible of repairs and maintenance needed within the service to ensure the health and safety of children and record same in the maintenance book |

Risk Assessment

| Role | Responsibility |
|--------------------|---|
| Responsible Person | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse and evaluate the risks associated with identified hazards; Determine appropriate ways to eliminate or control identified hazards; and Review risk assessments after any serious incident report is made to the Department of Education and Communities. |
| Educators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any risks or hazards within the centre to the Nominated Supervisor as soon as possible. |

Child Protection

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and Educators will comply with the requirements of the centre’s child protection policy to ensure the minimisation of children’s risk to harm.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations: 165, 167 &168
- www.cela.org.au (accessed June 17, 2024)
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parent/net-safety.html> (accessed June 17, 2024)

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