



DELIVERY OF CHILDREN TO, AND COLLECTION FROM, EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICE PREMISES POLICY GUIDELINES

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, an approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place for the delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises (Regulation 168).

The approved provider must ensure that a child's attendance record is kept that includes their name, and the date and time they arrive and depart. The record must be signed by the person who delivers or collects the child, or a nominated supervisor or educator (Regulation 158). In a family day care (FDC) service, the FDC educator must keep the record and can sign it if the signature of the person who delivers the child cannot reasonably be obtained (Regulation 159).

Children are only permitted to leave the service premises:

- if they are given into the care of a parent of the child, an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee in the child's enrolment record to collect the child
- in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record
- if they are taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee
- if they are given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency (Regulation 99).

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, education and care services must have policies and procedures in place for the delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises. These guidelines are part of a series and are intended to assist in the development of your *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy*. They have been designed to guide you in the development of your policy and are not an exact format.

1. Title

Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy

2. Policy statement

The policy statement will reflect your service's philosophy and approach to the delivery of children to, and collection from, your education and care service premises.

For example:

We are committed to the safe delivery of children to, and collection from, our education and care service premises. We have detailed processes, procedures and practices in this regard and ensure that all educators and staff implement them.

3. Background

Your policy needs to include a statement of why this requirement is in place.

For example, the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* require policies and procedures to be in place in relation to the delivery of children to, and collection from, the education and care service premises.

Children's safety and wellbeing is of primary importance, and services must ensure that appropriate measures are in place for the delivery and collection of children to protect them from any harm or hazard, including providing adequate supervision and preventing the collection of children by unauthorised persons.

The transition of children to and from a service requires particular attention given how busy it can be at these times (including transitioning between school and outside school hours care, if applicable). Safeguarding children during their delivery to and collection from the education and care service premises is enabled by the creation of policies and procedures and an effective process for their implementation.

4. Legislative requirements

Your policy must be consistent with and refer to legislative requirements for the delivery of children to, and collection from, the service premises. Examples include, but are not limited to:

Section 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
Section 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
Section 170	Offence relating to unauthorised persons on education and care service premises
Section 174	Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority
Reg 12	Meaning of serious incident
Reg 99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
Reg 122	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
Reg 123	Educator to child ratios – centre-based services
Reg 157	Access for parents
Reg 158	Children’s attendance record to be kept by approved provider
Reg 159	Children’s attendance record to be kept by family day care educator
Reg 160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider and family day care educator
Reg 161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
Reg 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
Reg 170	Policies and procedures to be followed
Reg 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
Reg 172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

When writing your policy, you should break down what is required under each Regulation and how your service will meet these requirements. How these work in practice will be contained in your procedures.

As you reflect on your *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy*, it might highlight the need to split its various areas into different policies and procedures that can be readily accessed by all educators and staff members to follow in relation to your service’s philosophy and their roles and responsibilities. For example, you may wish to have separate policies for *Delivery of children to our service premises* and *Collection of children from our service premises*.

5. Principles to inform your policy

All decision-making should be carried out in accordance with the principles of your service's *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy*. Examples of principles could include, but are not limited to:

- The health, safety and wellbeing of the children at our service is paramount. Our policies and procedures ensure that children are safeguarded during delivery to and collection from the education and care service premises.
- We value and respect our families' decisions about their children. This includes decisions about the people authorised to collect their children from the service premises and, if applicable, decisions about allowing children to leave the service premises on their own.
- We acknowledge the important role played by our service leaders, educators and staff. They are provided with the necessary training and support to implement the policies and procedures for the delivery of children to, and collection from, the education and care service premises.

6. Key terms

To make it easier for your audience, provide definitions of key terms that may not be used every day. For example:

Term	Meaning	Source
ACECQA – Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	The independent national authority that works with all regulatory authorities to administer the National Quality Framework, including the provision of guidance, resources and services to support the sector to improve outcomes for children.	
Authorised nominee	A person who has been given permission by a parent or family member to collect the child from the service or the family day care educator.	National Law (Section 170)
Authorised person	Means: (a) a person who holds a current working with children check; or (b) a parent or family member of a child who is being educated and cared for by the service or the FDC educator; or (c) an authorised nominee of a parent or family member of a child who is being educated and cared for by the service or the FDC educator; or (d) in the case of an emergency, medical personnel or emergency service personnel; or (e) a person who is permitted under the jurisdictional working with children law to remain at the service without holding a working with children check.	National Law (Section 170)

<p>Enrolment record</p>	<p>The approved provider must ensure that an enrolment record is kept for each child enrolled at the service, and the family day care (FDC) educator must keep an enrolment record for each child they educate and care for.</p> <p>The record must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full name, date of birth and address of the child • The name, address and contact details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - each known parent of the child - any emergency contact - any authorised nominee - any person authorised to consent to medical treatment or administration of medication - any person authorised to give permission to the educator to take the child off the premises • Details of any court orders, parenting orders or parenting plans • Gender of the child • Language used in the child’s home • Cultural background of the child and their parents • Any special considerations for the child, such as cultural, dietary, religious requirements or additional needs • Authorisations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the approved provider, nominated supervisor or an educator to seek medical treatment and ambulance transportation for the child - the service to take the child on regular outings (if relevant) • Name, address and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner or medical service • Medicare number (if available) • Details of any specific healthcare needs of the child, including any medical conditions, allergies, or diagnosis that the child is at risk of anaphylaxis • Any medical management plan, anaphylaxis medical management plan or risk minimisation plan • Dietary restrictions • Immunisation status • If the approved provider or a staff member has sighted a child health record, a notation to that effect. 	<p>National Regulations (Regulations 160-162)</p> <p>Guide to the NQF (Management of records – Children’s enrolment record)</p>
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Parent	<p>In relation to a child, includes:</p> <p>(a) A guardian of the child; and</p> <p>(b) A person who has parental responsibility for the child under a decision or order of a court.</p> <p>For Regulation 99, 'parent' does not include a parent who is prohibited by a court order from having contact with the child.</p>	National Law (Definitions)
Serious incident	<p>Means:</p> <p>(a) The death of a child -</p> <p>(i) while attending the service; or</p> <p>(ii) following an incident occurring while attending the service</p> <p>(b) any incident involving serious injury or trauma to a child at the service -</p> <p>(i) which a reasonable person would consider requires urgent medical attention from a registered medical practitioner; or</p> <p>(ii) for which the child attended or ought reasonably to have attended a hospital, e.g. a broken limb</p> <p>(c) any incident involving serious illness of a child at the service for which the child attended or ought reasonably to have attended a hospital, e.g. severe asthma attack, seizure or anaphylaxis reaction</p> <p>(d) any emergency for which emergency services attended</p> <p>(e) any circumstance where a child at the service -</p> <p>(i) appears to be missing or cannot be accounted for; or</p> <p>(ii) appears to have been taken or removed from the premises in a manner that contravenes the Regulations; or</p> <p>(iii) is mistakenly locked in or locked out of the premises or any part of the premises.</p>	National Regulations (Regulation 12)

7. Links to other policies

Refer to related policies and procedures, for example:

- Enrolment and orientation
- The acceptance and refusal of authorisations
- Providing a child safe environment
- Incident, injury, trauma and illness
- Safe transportation of children
- Excursions
- Governance and management of the service
- Staffing

8. Induction and ongoing training

State information about induction training and frequency of ongoing training and information sharing to assist managers, coordinators, educators and staff to fulfil their roles effectively.

Include the date the policy was created, reviewed or changes were made.

9. Monitoring, evaluation and review

State when the policy will be reviewed and who will be responsible for this.

10. Checklist

- Have you referenced the relevant Regulations and are these reflected in the policy?
- Does the title provide a clear and concise statement identifying the intent of the policy?
- Have you checked the policy requirements and referenced related legislation that applies to your service type?
- Does your policy statement provide a framework for decision-making and ensure consistent practice?
- Does your policy statement reflect your service philosophy?
- Is it clear why this policy exists?



DELIVERY OF CHILDREN TO, AND COLLECTION FROM, EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICE PREMISES PROCEDURES GUIDELINES

The approved provider must ensure the service has procedures in place in relation to the delivery of children to, and collection from, the education and care service premises.

Your procedures should be written in clear and concise language, making them easy to read, understand and implement.

The steps and guidelines you document in your procedures will not only guide your practice, but also inform the Regulatory Authority of educator and staff expectations and responsibilities.

When thinking about your procedures, they need to be practical and achievable. For example, if your procedures state that authorised nominees who are unfamiliar (to educators or service staff) must show photo identification, you will need to make sure that steps are in place for this to occur.

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1. Title

Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises procedures

2. Reference to policy and philosophy

Here you refer to your *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy* as seen in your policy documents. You can reference where you will find the policy to help those looking for it.

Your procedures will also reflect your overall philosophy, your *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy* and evidence-based quality practice guidelines.

3. Procedures

This is where you detail the way you will implement the *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy*.

It is the 'How to' in your service and includes specific step-by-step procedures for the delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises.

Some areas that will be outlined here will include:

- where the procedures will be kept
- when they were last reviewed
- templates and documents that might be required and/or used as a part of the procedures
- systems to monitor the implementation of the procedures.

You will need to consider:

- how educators or staff will verify the identity of an authorised nominee or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee to collect the child
- whether to set any minimum age requirements for the authorised nominee to collect the child from the service, e.g. above the age of 18 (also noting that some parents may be less than 18 years of age)
- any additional supervision needs near the service premises' points of entry/exit at times of arrival and departure
- what the circumstances are in which authorisations will be refused. Examples:
 - an authorisation was not provided by a person who has the authority to do so (e.g. parent or authorised nominee)
 - the child has been given authorisation to leave the service premises on their own, however the environment they would be in is unsafe (e.g. serious weather event)
 - the authorisation is insufficient (e.g. only provided over the telephone without sufficient details or evidence)
- what the process should be if, at collection, the parent or authorised nominee does not appear to be fit to take the child (e.g. intoxicated or under the influence of drugs). This also includes processes for limiting parent entry under Regulation 157
- what checks may be necessary at the time of service closure at the end of the day to ensure that no children are left on the premises
- how you will ensure the safe arrival and departure of children between school and outside school hours care (if applicable)
- any linkages to the service's transportation procedures, if the service transports children to/from the service.

As you reflect on your *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy*, it might highlight the need to split its various areas into different procedures, which will be displayed or accessed by all staff to follow in relation to their actions. For example, you may wish to have separate procedures for *Delivery of children to our service premises* and *Collection of children from our service premises*.

4. Roles and responsibilities

This is where you will designate specific roles and responsibilities for the people who hold different positions within your service. This needs to align with the Regulations.

It is important to note that it is the legal responsibility of approved providers to ensure systems are in place to minimise risk and ensure health and safety procedures are implemented by the responsible people in services. Ultimate responsibility lies with the approved provider to ensure their service/s are meeting the requirements under the National Quality Framework.

When developing this section consider:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of the approved provider, nominated supervisor, educators or other staff in your service in relation to the delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises?
- How will you clearly define these roles and expectations and where will it be documented?
- Why are clear and robust procedures for the delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises important for children's safety and wellbeing?
- How will you learn from the administration of these procedures to improve your practices?
- How will you ensure that the necessary tools are available so the approved provider, nominated supervisor, educators and other staff members can follow the procedures? How will they be made aware of the procedures?

An example of roles and responsibilities could include, but is not limited to:

Roles	Responsibilities
<p>Approved provider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that obligations under the <i>Education and Care Services National Law</i> and <i>National Regulations</i> are met • ensure that an attendance record is kept with: each child’s name; the date and time they arrive and depart; and the signature of the person who delivers or collects the child, a nominated supervisor or educator (Regulation 158) • ensure systems are in place so that children only leave the service premises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if they are given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee - in accordance with the written authorisation of the child’s parent or authorised nominee - if they are taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee - if they are given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency (Regulation 99) • ensure that an enrolment record is kept for each child which contains the information set out in Regulations 160 and 161, including authorisations from parents • ensure all supervision requirements are met during delivery of children to, and collection from, the service premises, including relevant educator to child ratios (Regulations 122 and 123) • should any incidents occur relating to the delivery of children to, or collection from, the service premises (e.g. a child being released to someone other than parent or an authorised nominee), ensure that the response meets all regulatory requirements, including notifying the Regulatory Authority of any serious incident (Section 174) and implementing your <i>Incident, injury, trauma and illness policy and procedures</i> • take reasonable steps to ensure that nominated supervisors, educators, staff and volunteers follow the <i>Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy and procedures</i> • ensure that copies of the policy and procedures are readily accessible to nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators and staff, and are available for inspection • notify families at least 14 days before changing the policy or procedures if the changes will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - affect the fees charged or the way they are collected or - significantly impact the service’s education and care of children or - significantly impact the family’s ability to utilise the service

<p>Nominated supervisor / Responsible person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement the <i>Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy and procedures</i> • ensure that an attendance record is kept with: each child’s name; the date and time they arrive and depart; and the signature of the person who delivers or collects the child, a nominated supervisor or educator (Regulation 158) • implement systems so that children only leave the service premises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if they are given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee - in accordance with the written authorisation of the child’s parent or authorised nominee - if they are taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee - if they are given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency (Regulation 99) • ensure that an enrolment record is kept for each child which contains the information set out in Regulations 160 and 161, including authorisations from parents • ensure all supervision requirements are met during delivery of children to, and collection from, the service premises, including relevant educator to child ratios (Regulations 122 and 123) • communicate any changes to children’s delivery and collection arrangements to educators and staff • should any incidents occur relating to the delivery of children to, or collection from, the service premises (e.g. a child being released to someone other than parent or an authorised nominee), ensure that the response meets all regulatory requirements, including notifying the Regulatory Authority of any serious incident (Section 174) and implementing your <i>Incident, injury, trauma and illness policy and procedures</i>
<p>Centre-based Educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be aware of and follow the <i>Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy and procedures</i> • ensure that the attendance record is completed when children arrive and leave, including: each child’s name; the date and time they arrive/depart; and the signature of the person who delivers/collects the child, a nominated supervisor or educator • ensure that, when leaving the service premises, children are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee - given into the care of a person in accordance with the written authorisation of the child’s parent or authorised nominee • meet the supervision requirements during the delivery of children to, and collection from, the service premises, including relevant educator to child ratios • should any incidents occur relating to the delivery of children to, or collection from, the service premises (e.g. a child being released to someone other than a parent or an authorised nominee), ensure that you immediately advise the approved provider/nominated supervisor/responsible person

<p>FDC educators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be aware of and follow the <i>Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy and procedures</i> • must keep the attendance record with each child's name and the date and time they arrive and depart. Sign the record if the signature of the person who delivers the child cannot reasonably be obtained • ensure that, when leaving the service premises children are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee - given into the care of a person in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee • ensure that an enrolment record is kept for each child which contains the information set out in Regulations 160 and 161, including authorisations from families • should any incidents occur relating to the delivery of children to, or collection from, the service premises (e.g. a child being released to someone other than a parent or an authorised nominee), ensure that you immediately advise the approved provider/nominated supervisor/responsible person/coordinator
<p>Parents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of the <i>Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy and procedures</i> • provide authorisations in their child's enrolment form and ensure the information is kept up-to-date • complete the attendance record when their child arrives and leaves, including: their child's name; the date and time they arrive/depart; and their signature • provide written authorisation should they require a person (other than the people listed in the enrolment record) to collect their child from the service

The following table will assist you in developing procedures specific to your needs and context. Don't forget to refer to the Regulations when you are writing your procedures to ensure that you are meeting your obligations.

Areas to include in your procedures	Things to consider and outline in each area <i>(this will be specific to the context of your service)</i>	Strategies for monitoring and implementing procedures	Related policy and/or procedures
<p>Delivery of children to and collection from the service</p> <p>Leg: s165, s167, s170, s174</p> <p>Reg: 99, 122, 123, 157-161, 168, 170-172</p> <p>QA2: 2.2</p> <p>QA3: 3.1</p> <p>QA4</p> <p>QA6</p> <p>QA7: 7.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What systems are needed so that children only leave the service premises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if they are given into the care of a parent, an authorised nominee named in the child’s enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee - in accordance with the written authorisation of the child’s parent or authorised nominee - if they are taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee - if they are given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency • How you will ensure that an enrolment record is kept for each child (including authorisations from families), including implementing your <i>Enrolment and orientation policy and procedures</i> • What communication with families may be needed to ensure that authorisations are kept up-to-date • What the circumstances are in which authorisations will be refused. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an authorisation was not provided by a person who has the authority to do so (e.g. parent or authorised nominee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure your policy and procedures are available for all to access • Ensure risk assessments are carried out and reviewed as required • Provide educator and staff induction training on the policies and procedures, standalone training, and regular updates and reviews at meetings • Regularly review supervision procedures, including ratio checks • Ensure educators and staff have ready access to up-to-date authorisation details • Provide reminders to families about completing the attendance record each day and updating authorisations 	<p>Enrolment and orientation</p> <p>The acceptance and refusal of authorisations</p> <p>Providing a child safe environment</p> <p>Incident, injury, trauma and illness</p> <p>Safe transportation of children</p> <p>Excursions</p> <p>Governance and management of the service</p> <p>Staffing</p>

Areas to include in your procedures	Things to consider and outline in each area <i>(this will be specific to the context of your service)</i>	Strategies for monitoring and implementing procedures	Related policy and/or procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the child has been given authorisation to leave the service premises on their own, however the environment they would be in is unsafe - the authorisation is insufficient (e.g. only provided over the telephone without sufficient details or evidence) • What the process will be for children leaving the service premises on their own, if authorised to do so • What the process should be if, at collection, the parent or authorised nominee does not appear to be fit to take the child • How educators or staff will verify the identity of an authorised nominee or a person authorised by the parent or authorised nominee to collect the child, e.g. photo ID • Whether to set a minimum age requirement for the authorised nominee to collect the child from the service premises, e.g. above the age of 18 (also noting that some parents may be less than 18 years of age). If so, what processes may be needed to implement the requirement • How to ensure that all supervision requirements are met during delivery of children to, and collection from, the education and care service premises, including relevant educator to child ratios. Note any additional supervision needs near the service premises' points of entry/exit at times of arrival and departure 		

Areas to include in your procedures	Things to consider and outline in each area <i>(this will be specific to the context of your service)</i>	Strategies for monitoring and implementing procedures	Related policy and/or procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What checks may be necessary at the time of service closure at the end of the day to ensure that no children are left on the premises • How you will ensure that an attendance record is completed when children arrive and leave, with: each child's name; the date and time they arrive/depart; and the signature of the person who delivers/collects the child, a nominated supervisor or educator • Should any incidents occur relating to the delivery of children to, or collection from, the education and care service premises (e.g. a child being released to someone other than parent or an authorised nominee), how you will ensure that the response meets all regulatory requirements, including notifying the Regulatory Authority of any serious incident and implementing your <i>Incident, injury, trauma and illness policy and procedures</i> • How you will ensure the safe arrival and departure of children between school and outside school hours care (if applicable) 		

5. Procedures created/reviewed

Include the date the procedures were created or reviewed.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and review

Your service, in consultation with educators, staff, families and other stakeholders, should review the effectiveness of these procedures within a set timeframe or earlier if there is a change in relevant legislation.

State when the procedures will be reviewed and who will be responsible for this.

7. Checklist

- Do the procedures align with your *Delivery of children to, and collection from, education and care service premises policy*?
 - Have your procedures been written in plain English and can they be easily implemented by an educator or staff new to your service?
 - Is it clear who is responsible for the implementation of the procedures?
 - Are all educators and staff aware of the procedures and can implement them if required?
 - Do you need to develop any resources to monitor and record the procedures?
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Useful Resources

Include links to useful resources that have helped inform the development of your policy. In addition, be mindful of the existence of any state- or territory-specific content.

Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Active supervision: Ensuring safety and promoting learning – <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/media/22946>
- Guide to the National Quality Framework – <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about/guide>
- Notification Decision Tree (Queensland) – <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/legislation-and-guidelines/health-and-safety/incident-and-emergency-management/notify-the-regulatory-authority>