

EXCURSIONS AND SERVICE EVENTS

QUALITY AREA 2 | VERSION 1.0

Adopted by Approved Provider of Golden Plains Shire Council Children's Services		Month / Year
Date revised		March 2024
Next revision due		March 2026



PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for Golden Plains Shire Council to plan and conduct safe and appropriate excursions, regular outings, and service events.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Golden Plains Shire Council is committed to:

- providing opportunities through the educational program for children to explore and experience the wider environment and broader community
- ensuring that all excursions, regular outings and service events are accessible, affordable and contribute to children's learning and development
- ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children at all times, conducting risk assessments and ensuring authorisations are obtained from parents/guardians
- providing adequate supervision of all children during excursions, regular outings and service events
- promoting road safety education and safe active travel for children.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, Family Day Care educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Golden Plains Shire Council, including during offsite excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators, Family Day Care educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
R indicates legislation requirement, and should not be deleted					
Developing an <i>Excursions and Service Events Policy</i> in consultation with the nominated supervisor, staff and parents/guardians at the service (<i>Regulation 168</i>)	R	√	√	√	√
Ensuring that staff incl FDCE, volunteers, students and others at the service are provided with a copy of the <i>Excursions and Service Events Policy</i> and comply with its requirements (<i>Regulation 171</i>)	R	√	√	√	√
Ensuring that all parents/guardians have completed, signed and dated their child's enrolment form (<i>refer to Enrolment and Orientation Policy</i>) including details of persons able to authorise an educator to take their child outside the service premises (<i>Regulation 99, 160, 161</i>)	R	√	√	√	√
Ensuring that parents/guardians or persons named in the enrolment record have provided written authorisation (<i>Regulation 99</i>) within the past 12 months where the service is to take the child on regular outings (<i>refer to Definitions</i>), and that this authorisation is kept in the child's enrolment record (<i>Regulation 161</i>) (<i>refer to Attachment 1</i>)	R	√	√	√	√
Ensuring that a child does not leave the service premises on an excursion unless prior written authorisation has been provided by the parent/guardian or person named in the child's enrolment record, and that the authorisation includes all details required under <i>Regulation 99, 102(4)</i> (<i>refer to Attachment 1</i>)	R	√	√		√
Ensuring that the number of children attending an excursion does not exceed the number for which service approval has been granted on that day	R	√	√		
Ensuring that educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times, including during excursions, regular outings and service events (<i>Regulations 123</i>)	R	√	√		
Ensuring that children are adequately supervised (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) at all times (<i>Regulation 122</i>) (<i>National Law: Section 165</i>)	R	√	√		√

Ensuring that parents/guardians, volunteers, students and all adults participating in an excursion are adequately supervised at all times and are not left with sole supervision of individual children or groups of children (<i>refer to Participation of Volunteers and Students Policy</i>)	R	√	√		
Ensuring that a risk assessment (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) is carried out for an excursion (<i>in accordance with Regulation 101</i>) before authorisation is sought from parents/guardians (<i>Regulation 100</i>), including suitability of venue	R	√	√		
Ensuring the risk assessment (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) identifies and assesses the risks, specifies how these will be managed and/or minimised, and includes all details required by <i>Regulation 101</i>	R	√	√		
Developing strategies to improve children's safety in high-risk situations such as excursions near water or near a road (<i>refer to Supervision of Children Policy, Water Safety Policy and Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy</i>)	R	√	√		
Ensuring a new risk assessment is completed when circumstances change for regular outings. All risk assessments need to be approved by service management/coordinator, no later than 24hrs prior to an excursion taking place.	R	√	√		
Ensuring that staff comply with the service's <i>Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy</i>	R	√	√	√	√
Encouraging parents/guardians to comply with the service's <i>Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy</i>	R	√	√	√	√
Providing road safety education as part of the curriculum		√	√		
Where appropriate, taking walking excursions in the local community to promote physical activity, safe active travel and community connectedness		√	√		
Ensuring that excursions and service events are based on an approved learning framework, the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child, and take into account the individual differences of each child (<i>refer to Curriculum Development Policy</i>)	√	√	√		
Ensuring that there is a clear purpose and educational value to each excursion or service event, and that this is communicated to parents/guardians	√	√	√		
Discussing the aims and objectives of the excursion or service event, and items of special interest, with children prior to undertaking the activity		√	√		
Involving children in consultation and decision-making processes		√	√		√

Considering the financial ability of families before deciding on an excursion/service event that would require an additional charge. Events that can be planned ahead of time should be included as an expenditure item in the service's budget where possible and, as a result, will not incur additional charges (<i>refer to Fees Policy</i>)	√	√	√		
Ensuring that proposed excursions/service events are inclusive of all children regardless of their abilities, additional needs or medical conditions (<i>refer to Inclusion and Equity Policy, Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Asthma Policy, Anaphylaxis Policy, Diabetes Policy and Epilepsy Policy</i>)	R	√	√		
Ensuring strategies are in place to provide an accurate attendance record (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) for children attending an excursion, and for children remaining at the service while an excursion is happening	R	√			
Ensuring strategies are in place to ensure that there is an accurate list of all adults participating in an excursion, including parents/guardians, volunteers and students, with contact details and emergency contact details for each individual	R	√	√		
Ensuring an accurate attendance record (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) is kept for children attending an excursion, and for children remaining at the service while an excursion is happening	R	√	√		√
Ensuring that there is an accurate list of all adults participating in an excursion, including parents/guardians, volunteers and students, with contact details for each individual	√	√	√		
Understanding that, if they participate in an excursion or service event as a volunteer, they will be always under the immediate supervision of an ECT/educator or the approved provider				√	√
If participating in an excursion, regular outing or service event, informing an educator immediately if a child appears to be missing from the group				√	√
Supervising and caring for siblings and other children in their care who are not enrolled in the program				√	
Taking a portable first aid kit (including required medication for dealing with medical conditions) on excursions and other offsite activities (<i>Regulation 89</i>)	R	√	√		√
Ensuring that each child's personal medication and current medical management plan is taken on excursions and other offsite activities (<i>refer to Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Asthma Policy, Anaphylaxis Policy, Diabetes Policy and Epilepsy Policy</i>) (<i>Regulation 90</i>)	R	√	√	√	√
Ensuring a mobile phone, the emergency contact details for each child and the contact details of their medical practitioner are taken on excursions for notification in the event of an incident, injury, trauma or illness (<i>Regulation 98</i>)	R	√	√		

Ensuring sunscreen and hats (if required) are taken on excursions and are available as required for service events and that outdoor excursion venues provide adequate shade	R	√	√		√
Informing parents/guardians of items required by children for the excursion, adventure activities or service event e.g., snack/lunch, sunscreen, coat etc	√	√	√		
Displaying a notice at the service indicating that children are on an excursion, and including the location of the excursion and expected time of return to the service	√	√	√		



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Excursions and service events are planned to extend the educational program and further develop the current interests of children. The [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework \(refer to Sources\)](#) states that “Participating in their communities strengthens children’s sense of identity and wellbeing” (Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world). The purpose and educational value of each excursion or service event should be clearly communicated to parents/guardians.

When planning excursions and service events, it is important to ensure that they are inclusive of all members of the service community. Consideration must be given to any extra costs involved and the ability of families to pay these costs. Consideration must also be given to ensuring that all children can attend regardless of their abilities, additional needs or medical conditions ([refer to Inclusion and Equity Policy, Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Asthma Policy, Anaphylaxis Policy, Diabetes Policy and Epilepsy Policy](#)). Clear procedures must be developed and followed, and these should be communicated to parents/guardians.

A risk assessment must be carried out for each excursion to determine any risks to children’s health, safety or wellbeing before permission is sought from parents/guardians ([Regulations 100, 101](#)). The risk assessment must identify each risk and specify how the risk will be managed and/or minimised ([Regulation 101](#)). Written authorisation for the child to attend the excursion must be obtained from a parent/guardian or person named in the child’s enrolment record before the child can be taken outside the service premises. For details regarding information to be included in the written authorisation, [refer to Attachment 1](#).

Active travel excursions near the service have a range of benefits including:

- children and staff being physically active
- providing the opportunity to practice road safety
- engaging with the community

Early childhood road safety education aims to reduce the risk of serious injury and death from road trauma. It also aims to lay the foundations for children to become safe and independent road and transport users in the future. Road safety education is an important part of a holistic approach to keeping children safe around traffic and in the road environment. Effective traffic skills are best learnt if they occur in a real environment i.e., using crossings and traffic lights.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- *National Quality Standard*, including Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice and Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g., Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.

Adequate supervision: (In relation to this policy) **supervision** entails all children (individuals and groups) in all areas of the service, 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 the service. 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 the service to record details of each child attending the service 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)*).

Excursion: An outing organised by the education and care service. The written permission of parents/guardians or a person named on the child's enrolment record as having lawful authority must be obtained before educators/staff take children outside the service premises.

Under the *National Regulations*, the definition of 'excursion' does not include an outing organised by services operating from a school site, where the child/ren leave the service premises with an educator/staff member, but do not leave the school site'.

Risk assessment: (In the context of this policy) a risk assessment must identify and assess any hazard that poses a risk to a child's health, safety and/or wellbeing while on an excursion, and specify how these risks will be managed and/or minimised (*Regulation 101*). Risk assessments must consider:

- the proposed route and location of the excursion
- any water hazards (*refer to Water Safety Policy*)
- any risks associated with water-based activities (*refer to Water Safety Policy*)
- transport to and from the proposed location of the excursion (*refer to Occupational Health and Safety Policy*)
- the number of adults and children participating in the excursion
- the number of educators or other responsible adults who will be providing supervision given the level of risk, and whether or not specialised skills are required (e.g., lifesaving skills)
- the proposed activities, and the impact of this on children with varying levels of ability, additional needs or medical conditions
- the proposed duration of the excursion, and the impact of this on children with varying levels of ability, additional needs or medical conditions

- any items/information that should be taken on the excursion e.g., first aid kit, emergency contact details for children, medication for children with known medical conditions (such as asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes) and a mobile phone.

Regular outing: (In relation to education and care services) means an excursion (*refer to Definitions*) such as a walk, drive or trip to/from a location that the service visits regularly as part of its educational program, and where the circumstances covered by the risk assessment are the same on each trip. If an excursion is a regular outing, an authorisation from parents/guardians is only required to be obtained once every 12 months. A new authorisation is required if there is any change to the circumstances of the regular outing.

Service event: A special activity, event, visitor or entertainment organised by the education and care service that may be conducted as part of a regular session at the service premises or as an excursion.

Supervision: refer to adequate supervision in *Definitions* above.



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: www.acecqa.gov.au
- *Guide to the National Quality Standard*, ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au
- ELAA's Road Safety Education program www.childroadsafety.org.au
- *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework*: www.education.vic.gov.au
- VicRoads: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Child Health Promotion Research Centre & Edith Cowan University (2012) *National Practices for Early Childhood Road Safety Education*: <https://childroadsafety.org.au/assets/Research/National-Practices-for-EC-RSE.pdf>

RELATED POLICIES

- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
- Administration of First Aid
- Administration of Medication
- Anaphylaxis
- Asthma
- Professional Behaviour (Code of Conduct)
- Curriculum Development
- Dealing with Medical Conditions
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Diabetes
- Emergency and Evacuation
- Enrolment and Registration
- Epilepsy
- Fees
- Food Safety
- Hygiene
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Inclusion and Equity
- Interactions with Children
- Nutrition and Active Play
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Participation of Volunteers and Students
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Road Safety and Safe Transport

- Sun Protection
- Supervision of Children
- Water Safety



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk ([Regulation 172 \(2\)](#)).



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Excursion Risk Management Form
- Attachment 2: Excursion Consent Form



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Golden Plains Shire Council on 25/03/2024

REVIEW DATE: 25/03/2026

ATTACHMENT 1. EXCURSION RISK MANAGEMENT FORM

Excursion risk management plan

Excursion details			
Date(s) of excursion		Excursion destination	
Departure and arrival times			
Proposed activities			Water hazards? If yes, detail in risk assessment below.
Method of transport, including proposed route			
Name of excursion co-ordinator			
Contact number of excursion co-ordinator			
Number of children attending excursion		Number of educators/parents/volunteers	
Educator to child ratio, including whether this excursion warrants a higher ratio.			
Excursion checklist			
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>First</u> aid kit		<input type="checkbox"/> <u>List</u> of adults participating in the excursion	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>List</u> of children attending the excursion		<input type="checkbox"/> Contact information for each adult	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Contact</u> information for each child		<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone / other means of communicating with the service & emergency services	

1

<input type="checkbox"/> Medical information for each child	<input type="checkbox"/> Other items, please list
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Risk assessment					
Activity	Hazard identified	Risk assessment (use matrix)	Elimination/control measures	Who	When

Plan prepared by:	
Prepared in consultation with:	
Communicated to:	
Venue and safety information reviewed and attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No Comment if needed:-
Reminder: Monitor the effectiveness of controls and change if necessary. Review the risk assessment if an incident or significant change occurs.	

Risk Matrix						
Likelihood	Consequence					
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
	Almost certain	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Likely	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Possible	Low	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
	Unlikely	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
	Rare	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	High

ATTACHMENT 2: EXCURSION CONSENT FORM



[NAME OF SERVICE] EXCURSION CONSENT FORM

[Name of Service] management must ensure that no child is taken outside the service by staff without a guardian's written authorisation.

The authorisation must include the date, proposed destination, method of transport, activities and number of staff that will accompany and supervise the children.

EXCURSION TITLE:			
DATE:	Click or tap here to enter text.		
DESTINATION:	Click or tap here to enter text.		
METHOD OF TRANSPORT:	Click or tap here to enter text.		
ACTIVITIES:	Click or tap here to enter text.		
TIME AWAY FROM PREMISES:	Click or tap here to enter text.		
NUMBER OF STAFF/ADULTS ATTENDING:	Click or tap here to enter text.	ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING:	Click or tap here to enter text.

A risk assessment has been completed for this excursion and is available at the service.

AUTHORISATION:

I, (Parent/Guardian) give permission for my child (Child) to take part in the excursion detailed above.

I authorise the staff member in charge of the excursion to consent where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to my child receiving such medical or surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary.

Signed: _____

Date: _____