



Woolooware Outside School Hours Care

(02) 9523 9971
34 Wills Road, Woolooware, 2230
info@woshc.com
accounts@woshc.com
www.woshc.com

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Woolooware Outside School Hours Care will provide a safe and secure outdoor environment where children have access to a variety of activities in which children are encouraged to participate, which promotes investigation and respect for the natural environment.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Regulations – R82, R104, R107, R108, R113, R114, R115, R168

National Quality Standard – 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.2.1

My Time Our Place: LO. 1, LO. 2, LO. 4

Other Service policies/documentation – Facility Management Policy, Building Equipment Repairs and Maintenance Policy, Educator:Child Ratio Policy, Supervision Policy, Sun Protection Policy, Indoor Environment Policy, Hygiene Policy, WHS Policy, Work Health and Safety Act 2011

PROCEDURES

The Centre will only enroll the number of children that can comfortably use the outdoor space in accordance with the Educational and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

The outdoor environment will be smoke free.

The outdoor space will be inspected daily for any obstacles or dangerous items through a daily risk assessment. These items shall be disposed of in a safe and careful manner prior to the children playing in the area.

The outdoor space will be set up in a variety of ways to encourage participation and exploration and experiences with the natural environment.

Various climatic conditions will be taken into account when utilising the outdoor space. Undercover areas will be made available to all children when utilising the outdoor environment in cases of wet weather and extreme heat. Educators and children will be required to demonstrate appropriate sun protection in compliance with the Sun Protection Policy.

Children will have safe, easy access to toileting facilities as well as access to fresh water.

Clear boundaries shall be set and enforced using supervision and risk factors (such as school fencing, cars etc.) in boundary decision making. Children are to play within direct eyesight and or hearing of an educator at all times. Educator:child ratios or other factors that may also affect the boundary requirements.



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When it is necessary to go outside the boundaries or line of supervision, an educator must accompany children or move so that they can see all children in their care.

The outdoor area will be comprised of both fixed and moveable equipment. The Centre will provide storage for outdoor equipment and ensure equipment is made available to children during allocated outdoor play.

Where possible, the outdoor area should be made easily accessible for children with varying mobility.

To ensure adequate supervision at all times, where possible, the indoor environment should open out to the outdoor environment with easy access for educators and children.

Use of other outdoor venues will be considered where access to the area is safe, adequate supervision can be maintained, the area is considered of value to the children's physical development and personal comfort, and where adequate educator/child ratios can be maintained both indoors and outdoors.

DATE ENDORSED: April 26, 2021

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: April 26, 2023