

EXCURSION POLICY

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1 NQS

QA2	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
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2 National Regulations

Reg	99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
	100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion.
	101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion.
	102	Authorisation for excursion.

3 Aim

- 3.1 The service acknowledges the value of relevant excursions in allowing children to gain a greater insight of the society in which they live, and learn from these experiences.
- 3.2 Our service will actively seek to minimise any risks associated with excursions, and respond promptly and appropriately to any emergency whilst on an excursion.

4 Related Policies

The Kids' Uni Policies and Procedures apply to Kids' Uni North, Kids' Uni South, Kids Uni CBD, Kids Uni iC – Preschool, Kids Uni iC – OOSH.

Staff Arrangements Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-055)

Transportation Policy (CHI-ADM-POL-060)

5 Implementation – Excursion Risk Assessment and Planning Process

- 5.1 The service must conduct a risk assessment prior to an excursion taking place.
- 5.2 Risk assessments are only required once if the excursion is a regular outing. Regular outings are walks, drives or trips to places that we visit regularly and which always have the same risks.
- 5.3 The risk assessment must be recorded using an Excursion Risk Assessment Form (see below – these can be obtained from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority website). Parents will be notified on an Authorisation for Excursion Form that they can access the Excursion Risk Assessments prior to the excursion upon their request. The service must comply with these requests and make all information available to parents if requested.
- 5.4 When using the Excursion Risk Assessment Form, the service must take into consideration the following –
 - i. Any risk that the excursion may pose to the safety, health and wellbeing of any child and identify how these risks will be managed and minimised.
 - ii. Any water hazards.
 - iii. Any risks associated with water-based activities.
 - iv. Transportation (to and from).

- v. **The ratio of adults and children which must comply with the ratios in the Staffing Arrangements Policy.**
- vi. Specialised skills required (such as life-saving skills).
- vii. Proposed activities.
- viii. Proposed duration.
- ix. Any medical conditions that need to be considered and managed for each child with specific health needs.

5.5 The Excursion Planning Checklist must also be conducted prior to any excursion – see below.

5.6 A parent or authorised nominee must provide a written authorisation for each child who is attending the excursion using the Authorisation for Excursion Form. This authorisation only needs to be obtained once every 12 months for regular outings, however families still need to be notified each time a regular outing is occurring.

5.7 Using the *Authorisation for Excursion Form*, the service will ensure that the emergency contact details for each child are up-to-date.

6 Procedure for Planning an Excursion

6.1 Educators to approach Nominated Supervisor with written rationale for a n excursion request using the *Approval for Excursion Form*.

6.2 If approved, risk assessment to be drafted and given to Nominated Supervisor.

6.3 The excursion will be planned taking into consideration:

- i. The children’s ages, capabilities and interests
- ii. Ways to maximise the children’s developmental experiences and safety
- iii. Suitability of the venue and access including wheelchairs if required
- iv. Access to food, drink and other facilities (such as toilets and shade)
- v. Weather conditions, which would make the venue unsuitable
- vi. The specific clothing and equipment needs of the children

6.4 A delegated supervisor will be appointed and have overall responsibility for the excursion.

6.5 Responsible adult volunteers over the age of 18 may be used to augment adult/child ratios on excursions. ***Refer to Staffing Arrangements Policy for required excursion ratios.***

6.6 The delegated supervisor of the excursion will be responsible for briefing all volunteers, including parents, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children during the excursion. This will include informing volunteers that they are not to be alone with children (other than their own) at any time and that they are not to provide food to children due to the risks of allergies.

6.7 Supervision is of utmost importance and must be maintained at all times. Children will be at all times in the care of a responsible adult.

6.9 It is the responsibility of the supervisor to maintain regular head counts and take the roll at appropriate times throughout the excursion including as children leave the service, arrive at the venue, leave the venue and return to the service.

6.10 Bush walking excursions will only be undertaken in known areas. Children and staff must remain on defined paths and be instructed in bush safety including what to do in case of a fire or if separated from the group.

6.11 Dams, rivers and beaches are to be avoided for swimming purposes because of the dangers that they present.

- 6.12 Educators should visit, or be familiar with the venue before undertaking the excursion to ensure that it is suitable, safe and accessible by all. Educators will phone venue ahead (if possible) when special requirements are needed.
- 6.13 When planning an excursion alternative arrangements will be made for adverse weather conditions.
- 6.14 Educators will consider not just wet weather, but cold or hot weather conditions when making plans for excursions and the final decision to continue with the excursion.
- 6.15 No child will be taken outside the centre without the parent's written authorisation.
- 6.16 A minimum of twenty four hours' notice will be given to the parent or guardian regarding any excursions.
- 6.17 Excursions to locations visited on a regular basis (eg. weekly) may be undertaken without individual excursion forms when parents have previously given general permission for these experiences on the authorisations form, or earlier in the year.
- 6.18 If all children and educators are attending an excursion then a notice will be prominently displayed at the service, which indicates:
 - i. Destination of the excursion
 - ii. Itinerary and timetable
 - iii. Contact phone numbers
- 6.19 Steps will be taken to ensure that all excursions comply with transport legislation and regulations.
- 6.20 Particular attention will be made to assist children when boarding or alighting from public transport and when walking with children across roads or in crowded areas.
- 6.21 *Approval for Excursion form*, Risk assessment and *Authorisation for Excursion form* to be given to the Director prior to the excursion for approval and sign off.
- 6.22 Once the excursion has been approved in writing by the Director, send out an Authorisation for Excursion form for Parents/ Guardians for written permission.

7 Transport Considerations

- 7.1 The means of transport must be stated on the permission note.
- 7.2 **Buses** – ensure that the seating capacity as displayed on the compliance plate is not exceeded. All children must sit on seats, preferably with, or close to, an adult. Seat belt guidelines must be followed depending on the bus. If the bus has seat belts, they must be worn at all times.
- 7.3 **Trains** – contact the station prior to the excursion to inform them of the time you will be travelling, the destination and the number of children and adults who will be travelling. Arrangements should be made to arrive at the station with an adequate amount of time to allow for safe boarding. This will allow the station to inform the train guard so that he / she can hold the train for the period of time for safe boarding and alighting. All children should be seated at all times, with an adult close by. All children should be seated in the one carriage, if possible.
- 7.5 **Cars** – Any motor vehicle that is used to transport children on an excursion (other than a motor vehicle seating more than nine persons) is fitted with child restraints and/or seatbelts that are appropriate for the age and weight of each child, that conform to the Australian Standards, and are professionally installed or checked by an authorised restraint fitter.

8 Insurance

Any excursion planned must be consistent with the requirements / exclusions of the Public Liability Cover held by the service.

9 While on the Excursion

- 9.1 No changes to the excursion itinerary will be made unless it is in the best interest of the children's safety and wellbeing.
- 9.2 All children will carry an identification smock /badge/ stamp/ sticker indicating the service name, address and contact numbers. Under no circumstances should children have their names on badges/ stamps/ stickers.
- 9.3 Information and equipment to be taken on the excursion will include:
 - i. A list of all children on the excursion, with relevant personal details and parent contact numbers
 - ii. Emergency mobile phone
 - iii. A list of all relevant and emergency procedures and contact numbers, to be readily accessible to all staff at all times
 - iv. A fully stocked portable first aid kit
 - v. Spare drinking water
 - vi. Asthma and emergency medication
- 9.4 Appropriate behaviour will be discussed with the children before and during the excursions and what to do if they are separated from the group.
- 9.5 No educator or parent will be left alone with a child/ren (other than a parent's own child) at any time including during toileting.
- 9.6 Regular head counts will be conducted throughout the excursion including as children leave the service, arrive at the venue, leave the venue and return to the service.
- 9.5 Records of excursion itineraries are to be kept at the centre and a copy to be taken on the excursion.

10 Excursion Risk Assessment Form

The Risk assessment checklist (see below) and a risk assessment will both be completed prior to the excursion. The format to be used for writing an excursion risk assessment is to be taken directly from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website and can be obtained at the following link:

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/sample-forms-and-templates>

11 Excursion Planning Checklist

Yes	No		Excursion planning checklist
Yes	No	N/A	The service has a timetable for the excursion and an itinerary.
Yes	No	N/A	At least 24 hours notice of the excursion has been given to parents, with an itinerary for the excursion. It is preferable for longer notice to be given where possible
Yes	No	N/A	A signed permission form for the specific excursion and any specific activity which is to take place during the excursion has been received from the parents. Regular outings can be covered by one form for a period of 12 months.
Yes	No	N/A	A list of children attending the excursion is left at the service prior to departure and a copy carried by the Supervisor for the purpose of checking at regular intervals during the course of the excursion.
Yes	No	N/A	The Supervisor has ensured that all children are equipped with clothing appropriate for the excursion. For example - jumpers, sun hats, appropriate footwear, sunscreen.
Yes	No	N/A	Educators are able to ensure children have access to shaded areas.
Yes	No	N/A	Any excursion planned is consistent with the requirements/exclusions of the Public Liability Insurance Cover held by the service.
Yes	No	N/A	A fully stocked first aid kit is taken.
Yes	No	N/A	Each child's emergency contact details are updated and taken.
Yes	No	N/A	A mobile phone or change for a phone is organised to take on the excursion.
Yes	No	N/A	Plans are in place to ensure that safe and suitable food and water is available for children during excursion, including children with allergies and food preferences.
Yes	No	N/A	Medication and a management plan for any children attending the excursion are available and updated and taken on excursion.
Yes	No	N/A	A designated educator must be assigned to directly supervise any child with a chronic illness/allergic condition. The educator is to hold the child's medication and management plan throughout the excursion.
Yes	No	N/A	Director has signed off final approval on the <i>Excursion Approval Form</i>
Yes	No	N/A	List of information to include in brief for volunteers has been collated.

12 Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standard

13 Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years and the review will include Management, Employees, Families and Interested Parties.

14 Version Control Table

Version Control	Date Released	Next Review	Approved By	Amendment
1	February 2012	February 2013	Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni	
2	February 2013	February 2014	Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni	This policy replaces the Excursion Kids Uni Policy. Paragraph inserted re application of policies across all centres. Migrated into new QA format.
3	Feb 2014	Mar 2017	Michele Fowler Manager – Kids Uni	Policy reviewed with no changes required. The review period changed to 3 years.
4	Jul 2018	Jul 2021	K.Grose – Children’s Services Manager	Updated risk assessment and referenced ACECQA format. Removed Authorisation for Excursion form out of policy and created form.
5	Nov 18	Nov 2021	K.Grose – Children’s Services Manager	Introduced an approval form to be signed off by the Director prior to excursions. Referenced the required ratios outlined in the Staffing Arrangements Policy Highlighted the need for volunteers on excursions to be briefed around safety and children’s needs.