

A group of children and an adult are walking along a paved path in an outdoor preschool setting. The children are dressed in casual clothing, and the adult is wearing a white shirt and dark pants. The background shows greenery, a green shed, and a building.

Emergency and Evacuation

Quality Area 2 : Children's Health and Safety

Policy Statement

North Rocks Preschool is committed to identifying risks and hazards of emergency and evacuation situations, and planning for their reduction or minimisation, and ongoing review of planned actions around handling these situations including:

- Conducting ongoing risk assessment and reviews of all potential emergency and evacuation situations, including medical emergency situations (see medical conditions policy)
- Develop specific procedures around each potential emergency situation and ensure full awareness by all staff through the provision of professional development.
- Ensure regular rehearsal and evaluation of emergency and evacuation procedures.

Goals / what are we going to do?

Emergency and evacuation situations in an education and care service can arise in a number of circumstances and for a variety of reasons. In the event of an emergency or evacuation situation, the safety and well being of the staff, children , families and visitors to the centre is paramount

We would like to acknowledge Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW) for material used in this policy





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Strategies / How will it be done?

Risk Assessment for Potential Emergencies

In preparing the emergency and evacuation procedures, a risk assessment is conducted to identify potential emergencies relevant to our service.

The Emergency Management Folder is kept in the office and contains:

- Detailed risk assessment and control measures of potential emergencies the preschool may be exposed to. Documentation is assessed and updated periodically and when needed as circumstances change.
- Detailed, specific procedures to follow in the event of any emergency or evacuation including:
 - Natural disaster
 - Fire or smoke
 - Bomb threat
 - Snake or other potentially dangerous animal
 - Act of terrorism
 - Chemical or hazardous leaks and spills
 - Loss of power or water
 - Intruders, seige or hostage situation
 - Outbreak of infectious disease or illness
 - Death of a child or adult
- A copy of the emergency and evacuation floor plan and instructions are displayed in a prominent position near each exit at the preschool.
- Staffing rosters ensure that at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification and has undertaken current approved anaphylaxis management training and approved emergency asthma management training will be immediately available in the event of an emergency



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- Emergency telephone numbers are clearly displayed above every telephone.

Discovery of an Emergency

- Educators who discover an emergency are required to alert the Responsible Person immediately so that they can determine and implement control measures.
- After immediate assessment, the Responsible Person will then call LOCKDOWN, LOCKOUT or EVACUATION depending on the type of emergency.

Evacuation Drills and Emergency Evacuation

Evacuation Drills are carried out every three months (once a term) without notice, at different times of the day, in accordance with the education and care services national regulations.

- Each drill is documented to include the date, time, how many people in the building according to attendance registers, how many people evacuated, the time it takes to evacuate, what simulated emergency conditions (if any), any problems encountered, weather conditions, and any additional notes. This documentation is kept for a minimum of three years.
- Simulated emergency conditions consider a variety of practise styles such as scenarios in the rooms, around the yards, and out of the grounds.
- Emergency whistles are provided in designated areas throughout the preschool. Whistles are ONLY to be used for evacuation purposes.

After the Emergency is Over

- In the event that the building is unsafe to return to, the Responsible Person will notify parents or emergency contacts to collect each child.
- If able to return to the building, with reassurance and calmness, walk back to the preschool following safety procedures, recheck that all children have returned and discuss as developmentally appropriate the emergency that has taken place.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Authority/Responsibility For
Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children at the service from harm and hazards that are likely to cause injury (section 167)• Ensure the identification of potential emergency and evacuation situations that may arise at the preschool and risks associated with such situations.• Ensure the following documents are attached to this policy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• - risk assessment – reviewed at least on an annual basis• Emergency and evacuation procedures; and• Emergency evacuation floor plan• Ensure educators and staff have ready access to an operating telephone or similar means of communication and that emergency telephone numbers are displayed near telephones.• Ensure educators and staff have ready access to emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers and fire blankets, and that staff are adequately trained in their use.• Ensure that emergency equipment is tested as recommended by recognised authorities.• Ensure that the emergency evacuation procedures floor plan are displayed in a prominent position near each exit and that all staff and educators are aware of these.• Ensure that all staff are trained in the emergency evacuation procedures.• Ensure that all staff are aware of emergency evacuation points; and• Ensure that the families are regularly reminded of the emergency procedures in place at the preschool.• Ensure that the rehearsals of evacuation procedures are regularly scheduled, every three months as a minimum, and that the schedule maximises the number of children and staff participating in the procedures.• Ensure that spontaneous rehearsals take place to ensure staff participate in the simulation of an unplanned, emergency evacuation events; and

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Authority/Responsibility For
Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide nominated staff with evaluation/feedback forms after each scheduled and spontaneous rehearsal to assist in refining their risk management procedures around the safe evacuation of staff and children.• Ensure all scheduled, spontaneous and actual evacuations are documented and reviewed.• Ensure all staff are provided with feedback forms after each evacuation.• Ensure all emergency contact lists are updated as required.
Early Childhood Educators Certified Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure the sign in book accurately records attendance of each child• Ensure the time of arrival and departure is noted in the sign-in book for every child.• Sign yourself in/out on the staff attendance record.• Display the emergency procedure plan for your room in a prominent position.• Practise the external procedure by different exits.• Practise the internal procedure.• Familiarise yourself with evacuation procedures in each area of the service.• Familiarise casual staff, students and visitors with the procedure when they start.• Ensure all items in the emergency bag are present.• Check the number of children in your care regularly throughout the day.• Provide children with learning opportunities about emergency evacuation procedures.• Be alert to the immediate needs of all children throughout the scheduled and spontaneous evacuation drills.• Assist the Nominated Supervisor in developing procedures to lessen the risks associated with the emergency evacuations.• Ensure they are aware of the placement of operating communications equipment and emergency equipment, and are confident in their ability to operate them.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Authority/Responsibility For
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarise selves with the preschool's emergency and evacuation policy and procedures and the preschool's Emergency Management Plan.• Ensure you complete the attendance record on delivery and collection of their child.• Provide emergency contact details on their child's enrolment form and ensure that this is kept up to date.• Following the directions of staff in the event of an emergency or when rehearsing emergency procedures.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the service will review the Policy every two years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with Regulation 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a families ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Policy review 2019

Emergency and Evacuation Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Related Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks

- **National Quality Standard Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety – Standard 2.3**

Sources

- **Australian Standards; Emergency control organisation for buildings, structures and workplaces (AS 3745-2002)**
- **Department of Education**

Related Legislation

- **Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 167, 169**
- **Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011; Regulations 97, 98, 168 (2)(e)**
- **Work Health and Safety Act 2011 Regulation 43**
- **Occupational Health and Safety Act 2011**