

STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

Highland Grove Preschool aims to engage educators and staff who have the qualifications and experience to develop warm, nurturing, and respectful relationships with children. We are committed to ensuring that children’s health, safety, and wellbeing is protected at all times through providing appropriate and effective supervision according to legislated ratios and best practice. Our educators, in collaboration with our Educational Leader, design and implement programs that support children’s participation and engagement, interests, learning, and development.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 4: STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS		
4.1	Staffing arrangements	Staffing arrangements enhance children’s learning and development.
4.1.1	Organisation of Educators	The organisation of Educators across the Service supports children's learning and development.
4.1.2	Continuity of staff	Every effort is made for children to experience continuity of Educators at the Service.
4.2	Professionalism	Management, Educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.
4.2.1	Professional collaboration	Management, Educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other’s strengths and skills.
4.2.2	Professional Standards	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
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PURPOSE

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place in relation to staffing arrangements (regulation 168) and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed. (ACEQA 2021).

SCOPE

This policy applies to staff, educators, approved provider, nominated supervisor, management, students, and volunteers at the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Highland Grove will comply with the required educators to child ratios, taking into consideration qualification requirements and experience, implement the required staffing requirements and ensure all staff adhere to our Code of Conduct.

We will comply with the National Quality Framework and ensure 50 percent of educators meet the relevant Diploma qualification requirement or be actively working towards an approved diploma level education and care qualification. All other educators are '*suitably qualified persons*' who are required to have at least an approved certificate III level education and care qualification or be actively working towards their qualification.

'SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSON' DEFINITION:

ACECQA determines the following qualifications as requirements for a 'suitably qualified person':

- an individual who is '*actively working towards*' an approved early childhood teaching qualification AND has completed at least 50 per cent of the qualification or holds an approved early childhood education and care diploma OR
- an individual who is registered (accredited in New South Wales) as a primary or secondary school teacher in Australia AND holds an ACECQA approved early childhood education and care diploma (or higher approved qualification)

ACTIVELY WORKING TOWARDS DEFINITION:

An educator who is enrolled in a course for an approved Early Childhood qualification.

- The educator is required to provide documentary evidence of their course, training plan and progress towards completion of the course.

- Individuals actively working towards an approved qualification may be counted towards qualification requirements as ‘suitably qualified persons.’
- We will support the educator in completing their qualification through mentoring and assistance.
- Our centre will ensure records are kept detailing staff who are actively working towards an early childhood qualification, including evidence of satisfactory progress.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER

An Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) is a person with an approved early childhood teaching qualification in accordance with ACECQA’s qualification list. A record must be kept containing the period the early childhood teacher is working directly with children.

- Highland Grove will comply with NSW requirements and engage and have access to an ECTs based on the number and age of children.
- This means when:

40 to 59 children preschool age or under in attendance per day:

- Two early childhood teachers must be in attendance at all times that a centre-based service is educating and caring for children preschool age or under.

60 to 79 children preschool age or under in attendance per day:

- Three early childhood teachers must be in attendance at all times that a centre-based service is educating and caring for children preschool age or under.

EDUCATIONAL LEADER

The Educational Leader has an influential role in inspiring, motivating, affirming, and challenging or

extending the practice and pedagogy of educators. It is a joint endeavour involving inquiry and reflection,

which can significantly impact on the important work educators do with children and families.

- The Approved Provider will nominate a qualified and experienced educator to take on the Educational Leader role and responsibilities.
- The Educational Leader will keep a record about how they mentor and guide educators of the Service to ensure continuous improvement.
- The Educational Leader will guide educators to provide a compliant and rich program.
- The Educational Leader will accept the position, in writing.

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR

The Nominated Supervisor is a suitable person appointed by the Approved Provider who is placed in day-to-day charge of an approved Service. The Approved Provider must provide sufficient evidence and information to demonstrate compliance to the regulatory authority of the suitability of this person. Nominated Supervisors have a range of responsibilities under the National Law and Regulations including programming, supervision and safety of children, entry to and exit from the premises, food and beverage, administration of medication, excursions, staffing, sleep, and rest.

The Approved Provider will display the name of the Nominated Supervisor in a place that is clearly visible to staff, educators, families and visitors.

The Approved Provider will notify the regulatory authority at least seven days prior to the Nominated Supervisor starting or as soon as practicable (not more than 14 days)

- The Nominated Supervisor must be 18 years of older
- The Nominated Supervisor must have successfully completed Child Protection training
- The Nominated Supervisor must have a history of compliance with Education and Care National Law and other relevant law (e.g., Family Law).
- The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Service, ensuring compliance with the National Law, National Regulations, National Quality Standards and Family Assistance Law.
- The Nominated Supervisor will accept the role in writing, to ensure they have a clear understanding about their role and responsibilities
- The Nominated Supervisor will ensure the Service program is reflective of the approved learning framework, incorporate the children's developmental needs, interests, and experiences, and consider the individual differences and needs of each child
- The Nominated Supervisor will adhere to Service policies ensuring a safe and healthy environment is provided.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

A Responsible Person is required to be physically present at the Service at all times that children are being educated and cared for. The Responsible Person can be the Approved Provider, or a person with management or control placed in day-to-day charge of the Service. The Responsible Person must be at least 18 years old and have adequate knowledge and understanding of the provision of education and care to children.

- Highland Grove preschool will ensure there is always a Nominated Supervisor or Responsible Person on the premises when children are being educated and cared for
- We will clearly communicate the Responsible Person on duty with families, educators, staff and visitors by displaying this information in the foyer or reception area
- The Responsible Person will adhere to Service policies and procedures and maintain a safe and healthy environment for children
- The Responsible Person will always act with professionalism when dealing with children, educators, visitors, and families
- All Responsible Persons will accept the role in writing, to ensure they have a clear understanding about their role and responsibilities
- The Responsible Person must have a history of compliance with Education and Care National Law and other relevant law (e.g., Family Law).
- At Highland Grove, our educators filling the role of Responsible Person form our 'Leadership Team'.

APPROVED FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS

- The Approved Provider is required to ensure at least one staff member, or one Nominated Supervisor holds current qualifications for first aid, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training.
- The Approved Provider must ensure at least one staff member, or one Nominated Supervisor be in attendance at any place children are being educated and cared for by the Service and be immediately available in an emergency and hold the mandatory qualifications for:
 - an ACECQA approved first aid qualification and
 - anaphylaxis management and
 - emergency asthma management training.
 (Approved qualifications are published on the ACECQA website)
- Services must have staff with current approved qualifications on duty at all times and be immediately available in an emergency
- At Highland Grove our aim is that all our permanent educators hold these qualifications.
- It is the staff and educator's responsibility to ensure they maintain current First Aid, Asthma, and Anaphylaxis Training certificates and provide the Service with a copy of the certificate. Staff and educators must ensure they participate in training prior to the expiration date on their certificates.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CLEARANCE/CHECK

A Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a requirement for people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It involves a national criminal history check and a review of findings of workplace misconduct. The result of a WWCC is a clearance to work with children for **five years (NSW)**. Cleared applicants are subject to ongoing monitoring and relevant new records may lead to the clearance being revoked.

- To comply with National Regulations for those undertaking paid or voluntary child-related work all employees of the Service will acquire a Working with Children Check.
- Management will keep a record of the expiry date of the Working With Children Check for all staff, volunteers and students
- Management will ensure the Working With Children Checks are verified before educators, staff, students and volunteers are engaged at the Service
- Management will ensure any notifications or concerns regarding a person's Working With Children Check/Clearance are recorded and steps taken immediately to ensure the person is not working directly with children in accordance with directions from the **Office of the Children's Guardian (NSW)**

STAFF RECORD

Approved Services must keep information about the Nominated Supervisor, Responsible Persons, Educational Leader, staff, volunteers, and students at the centre, including name, address, date of birth, evidence of qualifications (including evidence of working towards qualifications), evidence of approved training (including Child Protection).

- Details must include evidence of staff and educators working directly with children, their qualifications and training information and Working with Children Check verification number and expiry date
- All staff, educators, students, volunteers, and visitors are required to sign in and out each day
- Details of Teacher registration (if applicable)
- Details of the Educational Leader
- Details of Responsible Person
- Details of Nominated Supervisor
- Details of staff who are actively working towards a qualification, including evidence of satisfactory progress (from July 1, 2023)

SHORT-TERM RELIEF REPLACEMENT

From 1 July 2023, educators and Early Childhood Teachers are able to be replaced when absent for a short period of time due to short-term illness, leave, resignation, or because they are attending supervised professional experience placements for an approved qualification (excludes ECTs attending practicum in NSW). Educator and Diploma qualified staff may be replaced for a maximum of 30 days in a 12-month period while the service continues to meet regulation 126. Early Childhood Teachers may be replaced for a maximum of 60 days in a 12-month period while the service continues to meet regulations 132, 133, 134.

A record must be kept documenting the following:

- The name of the educator or ECT being replaced
- The qualifications of the educator or ECT being replaced
- The qualifications of the person replacing the educator or ECT
- The date when the educator or ECT was replaced
- The reason for the educator or ECTs absence

ADEQUATE SUPERVISION

Adequate supervision is a consideration for any part of the Service premises where children are educated and cared for and is part of every educator's Duty of Care. Educators are required to ensure that children are in sight and/or hearing at all times, demonstrating that the best interest of children is being provided for. This includes toileting, sleep, rest, nappy changing, transition routines and whenever the service provides or arranges transport for children as part of the service.

- Our Service will comply with educator to child ratios outlined in National Legislation and National Quality Framework
- Educators are required to adhere to the Service's *Supervision Policy* and floor plan to maintain effective supervision
- Educators will always be able to observe each child, respond to individual needs and attend to children as necessary
- Educators will adjust their level of supervision depending on the area of the Service and the skills, age, dynamics, and size of the group of children being supervised
- When supervising outdoors, educators will position themselves so as to be able to see as much of the play area as possible
- Where there are water activities or high-risk experiences, educators will ensure close supervision is maintained
- Older children will be adequately supervised whilst sleeping or resting

- Children will be supervised when hand washing and during toileting/nappy change times
- Adequate supervision will be provided when children are being transported. Consideration will be made depending on risk assessments, number, age and ability of children, visibility of children, each child's current activity. (see *Safe Transportation Policy*)
- Educators will communicate with other staff and educators about their supervision points, offer advice and support to ensure children's safety is of the highest priority at all times.
- Supervising educators will give their complete attention to the children and not perform other duties or tasks

WORKING DIRECTLY WITH CHILDREN

National Regulations state that an educator cannot be included in calculating the educator to child ratio of a centre-based Service unless the educator is working directly with children. A record must be kept of educators working directly with children which includes the name of each educator and the hours each educator works directly with children being educated and cared for by the Service.

- To ensure compliance with regulations, we will only include educators in the educator to child ratio who are working directly with the children and ensure a current roster and a sign on/sign off record are available to verify this
- The approved provider must ensure that a record is kept indicating the period of time an early childhood teacher and each suitably qualified person is working directly with children.

ROSTERS

- Our Service will ensure the roster and routine provides adequate supervision of children at all times
- Rosters will be created to provide children with continuity of care to support children's development of secure relationships and contribute to their wellbeing
- Where possible, casual staff will be chosen from a pool of regular educators with whom the children are familiar to provide continuity of care.

VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS

- The Approved Provider will ensure that volunteers and students meet any requirements for Working With Children Checks/Clearance
- At no time will volunteers and/or students be left alone with a child or group of children or be included in the educator to child ratio
- We will document the name, address and date of birth of volunteers and students

- The *Visitor Sign In/Out Record* will document the date and hours the student/volunteer attended the service
- All volunteers and students will be inducted into the Service to ensure they adhere to the Service's policies and procedures, Statement of Philosophy and Code of Conduct
- induction will ensure volunteers and students are aware of how to manage medical conditions and to respond to a child in case of illness, injury or suffers trauma, awareness of privacy laws (including social media, photography) and behaviour guidance procedures.

PRIVACY

- Educators will adhere to the Service's *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* and Privacy Law in relation to children and their families, or matters relating to the Service and will at no time take part in inappropriate or unlawful conversations or discussions
- The Nominated Supervisor will ensure that students and volunteers are made aware of the Service's *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* and Privacy Law during their initial induction
- All staff, educators, volunteers and students are provided with information about the ECA Code of Ethics

STAFF EMPLOYED UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Our Service will ensure any staff member under 18 years of age does not work at the service alone and is adequately supervised at all times by an educator who is over 18 years of age.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Our Service will ensure a rigorous recruitment process is followed to select the best staff possible based on skills, qualifications, experience and suitability for the position available. Each role will refer to the appropriate position description during recruitment and the probation period to ensure applicants are suitable for the role and position.

All potential staff will participate in robust interviews and have reference checks completed before an offer of employment is presented. Reference checks will take into consideration the suitability of the applicant for the role, previous experience and their commitment to child safe practices.

All potential staff are subject to maintenance of a valid Working With Children Card (WWCC) and appropriate qualifications.

All new staff will undergo a probation period of **three (3)** months, during this time they will participate in an induction and orientation program and hold regular discussions regarding their performance with an appointed mentor.

Staff induction includes provision of the Service’s policies and procedures, code of conduct, Child Safe Standards, child protection, Work Health and Safety guidelines, behaviour guidance, service routines, physical environment, communication with family’s processes, and introduction to senior staff members and/or mentor.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Highland Grove will ensure a copy of the Policies and Procedures are available to all staff at all times. These can be accessed on our website (with code for specific staffing policies) and in our Centre Policy Manual. The Approved Provider will ensure steps are taken to ensure staff follow policies and procedures through the following practices:

- new staff members are to read key policies and procedures during the induction process
- policy review is to be conducted during staff meetings to support staff understanding and adherence
- staff meeting minutes will record evidence of policies and procedures reviewed with staff
- policy review will be systematic and occur on a regular basis to support regular review and maintenance of policies and procedures
- staff are requested to provide feedback following policy reviews
- policy review will be conducted following updates to legislation or regulation amendments, when reflection of benefits of change are noted by stakeholders or following an incident or complaint
- the staff sign their agreement to follow centre policies on the contract of employment

EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIOS

Our Service will meet the minimum child ratio requirements as stated below:

State	Age of children	Educator to child ratio
NSW, WA	Birth to 24 months	1: 4
	Over 24 months and less than 36 months	1: 5
	Over 36 months of age or over (not including children over pre-school age)	1: 10

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Our *Staffing Arrangements Policy* will be updated and reviewed annually in consultation with families, staff, educators and management.

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. *Staffing Guidelines*.

Department of the Officer of the Privacy Commissioner: www.privacy.gov.au

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011). (Amended 2023)

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2023).

Office of the Children's Guardian: <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/working-children-check>

QLD Government. Department of Education. Early Childhood Education and Care. Ensuring staff follow policies and procedures <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/legislation-and-guidelines/policy-and-procedure-guidance/ensuring-staff-follow-policies-and-procedures>

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

[Western Australian Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)

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