

Our Centre is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe environment where children are safe and feel safe and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Child safety is embedded in our organisational leadership, governance, policies and procedures and culture.

Children have the right to be protected from the misuse of photographic and video images whilst at the Centre. To ensure the privacy of children and families is respected, our Centre will only use photographs of children to support their learning and record individual developmental progress with written authorisation from parents/guardians. Photographs will also be used for the purpose of Medical Management Plans.

## Purpose

We aim to ensure the collection and use of photographs or video of children complies with privacy laws and legislation. We are committed to creating and maintaining a child safe environment by adhering to the Child Safe Standards.

## Implementation

The displaying of photos provides children and families with a sense of belonging. Photographs allow children to see themselves at play, are a topic of conversation for children and parents, allow families to see their child at play, and convey the message to children that what they are doing is important. However, it is fundamental to respect the rights of all children and families to privacy and ensure child safety is embedded in our policies and procedures.

*The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Responsible Person will ensure:*

- We are maintaining children's safety and respecting their right to privacy
- Families provide written permission/consent for photographing or recording video of their child by the Centre
- Every child in our care is protected from any exploitation of photographic and video images of themselves taken whilst they attend the Centre
- Children participate in decisions affecting them including permission to have photographs taken of them
- Personal information about the child's surname, age or any other information that reveals their identity is not published
- That photographs taken by educators support the children's learning and record children's individual progress
- Photographs recorded at the Centre as part of a normal day are taken using a digital camera or centre owned digital device and are only taken by members of the staff team, or by practicum students with written parental permission
- At no time are staff permitted to bring in a camera from home or use their mobile phone to take photographs, videos, or audio recordings of children whilst being educated and cared for
- that the Centre seeks written permission from families for their child to be photographed when an outside photographer/agency is contracted to take photographs for marketing purposes or to take individual and group photos once a year. Only children who have written permission from their parent/guardian will be included in any photography
- That the Centre notifies parents of the purpose of taking photographs such as use on the Centre's website, advertising flyers/brochure, and parent handbook
- Parents are aware that photographs or images may be taken of their children by other parents at various times of the year (e.g. during an end-of-year production or other event). Should parents not want their child photographed at any time, they must provide written notification to the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor at time of enrolment or if their decision for consent changes
- A record of all children who are NOT to be photographed will be developed, maintained and shared with educators and staff
- This record will remain private and confidential to staff only
- That the children of parents/carers who do not wish their child to be photographed or videoed are provided with other activities when an outside photographer/agency is engaged



- Parents/carers have the choice to withdraw consent for their child to be photographed or filmed in certain circumstances
- Photographs, video or other recordings of children are securely stored and disposed of when the child is no longer enrolled at the Centre
- Photographs/videos are taken to:
  - Support the individual learning of each child for their formal record
  - Record children’s work and activities within the Centre environment.
  - Medical Management Plans

*Families (Parents/carers)*

- Will be requested to provide written permission/consent for educators, students or volunteers to take photos of their child/ren for assignments as part of their children centres/university course
- Will be requested to provide written permission/consent for individuals visiting the Centre to take photographs of their child/ren (e.g. professional photography for marketing, school photos etc.)
- Are required to provide written notification to the Nominated Supervisor if they do NOT want their child to be photographed or their photo published in any form. The Nominated Supervisor keep a record of children who are not to be photographed and notify relevant educators/staff.
- Are aware they have the choice to withdraw consent for their child to be photographed or filmed in certain circumstances
- Written notification is required if parents/families do NOT want their child included in photography opportunities which may include:
  - Photographs taken to be used in each child’s portfolios as these may contain other children
  - Video of children taken for the children to be able to watch themselves at play. These videos may be made available to all families to view at various times.
  - When children/families are provided with a photo of their child to take home- these may include images of other children in the photo
  - When children are invited to take photographs or video either with digital cameras or tablets with story-making apps to support language and literacy development. Hard copies of these may be printed and made into a book produced by children. These will remain within the Centre but may be viewed by families and visitors.

**Source:** Byrnes, J., & Wasik, B. (2009). Picture this: Using photography as a learning tool in early childhood classrooms. *Childhood Education, 85*. *Child Protection Act, 1998*. Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011). Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020). Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017). Office of the Children’s Guardian *Child Safe Standards* (2020). *Privacy Act 1988* Revised National Quality Standards. (2018). Victoria State Government Department of Education and Training (2020). *Child Safe Standards: Creating a safe Environment*

**Date Implemented:** 16/04/2012

**Review Completed:** 11/04/2021

**Schedule for Review:** 11/04/2022

**Authorised by COM:** Nov 2020

National Quality Standard – NQS		
Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children		
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained
Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities		
6.1.2	Parent views are respected	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected and families share in decision-making about their child’s learning and wellbeing.



**Education and Care Service National Regulations**

<b>181</b>	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider
<b>181-184</b>	Confidentiality and storage of records

