

APPROPRIATE RISK TAKING

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Element 2.2.2: Physical activity is promoted through planned and spontaneous experiences and is appropriate for each child.

Element 2.3.2: Children are adequately supervised at all times.

Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

Element 3.2: The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play.

Education and Care Services National Regulations: 168 (2) (h)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures that will be implemented by the centre for the safe use of the climbing equipment. The outlined procedures will effectively manage any identified risks associated with each respective piece of climbing equipment. This equipment comprises: The Preschool and Toddler Climbing Wall, The UFO Climbing Equipment, the Climbing Rope and Rope Swing.

POLICY

This policy ensures that the safety and wellbeing of children is maintained at all times. Preventing serious injury is a key consideration in the use of the climbing equipment at Froebel St Leonards. Along with this important consideration is the need for children to explore and learn through play. There is a growing body of research that highlights the benefits for children when play environments provide risk and challenge. There is also corresponding evidence of negative outcomes when children are not given such opportunities and striving for 'risk-free' play grounds can actually diminish learning and development opportunities.

Risk taking provides opportunities for children to explore, be adventurous and to test their own capacities in the early childhood environment. Appropriate risk taking satisfies a child's innate need for risk therefore helping the child to learn about their own sense of being- their strengths, abilities, achievements and limitations, and about how to access risk: problem solve, communicate, collaborate and get along positively with others. It is the policy of Froebel St Leonards to encourage appropriate risk-taking opportunities through play. The climbing equipment at the centre provide key elements that support the children to learn in this way in their early childhood environment.

An important aspect of this policy is the consideration that children will never be pressured into taking an appropriate risk if they do not want to. The educators will use their knowledge and understanding of each child to appropriately respond to their skills and interests with regards to the climbing equipment

PROCEDURES

Staff and Educators will:

- Conduct a risk assessment for each item of equipment used for the purpose of appropriate risk-taking through climbing.
- Inspect the climbing equipment on a daily basis using a designated 'safety checklist'. Any areas highlighted for maintenance will be prioritised for repair.
- Ensure that children are appropriately supervised when using the climbing equipment. This means being aware of where they stand or are positioned in relation to the climbing equipment.
- Communicate effectively with each other to ensure that at least one educator is present at each piece of equipment.
- Develop a set of 'golden rules' with the children to guide the children in safe ways to use the equipment.
- Ensure that the 'golden rules' include guidelines about: the appropriate footwear and clothing for climbing, the number of children that are able to climb on each piece of equipment, and the importance of keeping the areas around the climbing equipment free of toys and other play equipment.
- Create signage with the children that displays these guidelines and also highlights the importance of safety to new or casual staff.
- Take every reasonable precaution to protect the children who are in the care of the service from harm and from any possible hazard likely to cause injury.

REFERENCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- National Quality Standard
- Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- [Community Child Care Co-operative](#)
- [Kidsafe NSW](#)
- *Risk-taking in Outdoor Play: Possibilities and Challenges*. Helen Little: Institute of Early Childhood Macquarie University.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

- Supervision
- Accident Prevention
- Safety Check and Maintenance of Buildings and Equipment
- Accidents and Incidents

REVIEW

- The Centre (together with educators) will review this policy every 12 months.
- The Approved Provider and Centre Director ensure that at all times all educators maintain and implement this policy and its procedures.

- Families are encouraged to collaborate with the Centre to review the policy and procedures.

Last review:

Next review:

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