



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY

Physical activity is vital for young children's health, wellbeing and development and lays the foundation for a healthy active life. All babies and young children benefit from a mix of physical activity, inactivity and sleep. Langwarrin Community Centre recognises the important role educators have in promoting children's physical activity in appropriate ways ensuring children's comfort and wellbeing requirements are being met.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

| QUALITY AREA 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE | | |
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| 1.1 | Program | The educational program enhances each child's learning and development. |
| 1.2 | Practice | Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development. |
| 1.2.1 | Intentional teaching | Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions. |
| 1.2.3 | Child directed learning | Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events and their world. |
| 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. |
| 2.2.3 | Child protection | Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect. |
| QUALITY AREA 3: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | | |
| 3.1.2 | Upkeep | Furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained. |
| 3.2 | Use | The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning. |
| 3.2.1 | Inclusive environment | Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments. |
| 3.2.2 | Resources support play-based learning | Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning. |

| EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS | |
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| 73 | Educational Program |



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| 76 | Information about educational program to be given to parents |
| 86 | Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness |
| 103 | Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair |
| 113 | Outdoor space—natural environment |
| 115 | Premises designed to facilitate supervision |
| 155 | Interactions with children |
| 156 | Relationships in groups |
| 168 | Education and care service must have policies and procedures |

RELATED POLICIES

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| Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Educational Program Policy Communication Policy Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy | Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Professional Development Policy Respect for Children Policy Sun Safety Policy Supervision Policy |
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PURPOSE

Our Service aims to promote children's physical activity and development of their gross and fine motor skills through a range of spontaneous and intentionally planned active play experiences that are both child initiated and educator led. We aim to form respectful partnerships with families and help them gain a deeper understanding of the benefits of physical activity and wellbeing for children.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

To promote healthy growth and development, young children should participate in a range of developmentally appropriate, enjoyable and safe play-based and structured physical activities in a variety of environments, both independently as well as interacting with adults and other children. Developing fundamental and tactical movement skills provides children with the opportunity to acquire and master a range of movement skills and dispositions to participate in a lifetime of physical activity as confident, competent and creative movers.



Maximum height of any equipment placed on rubber outdoor surface is 1metre.

WHAT IS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY?

'Physical activity is any bodily movement, including small and large movements, produced by skeletal muscles which results in energy being expended.' (Munch & Move, 2017) It includes everyday activities, physically active play and organised sports and exercise. Physical activity strengthens children's bones, muscles, hearts and lungs and improves children's coordination, balance, posture and flexibility.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/ MANAGEMENT/ NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- ensure educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy
- ensure families are aware of this *Physical Activity Policy*
- ensure children are adequately supervised at all times and protected from harm and hazards
- ensure all educators and staff adhere to the *Sun Safety Policy* and playground surfaces and equipment meet Australian Standards and guidelines
- engage in critical reflection as a team and with the children about the risks and benefits of new activities or processes
- reflect on our Service's physical environment, layout and design to ensure it is supporting children's active play, sedentary play and sleep and rest time
- consider the ways moveable and fixed equipment are utilised in the outdoor physical environment to encourage physical activity and adventurous (risky) play. Risky vs safe play is dependent on the age and developmental level of each child, supervision, support and guidance will be provided by educators.
- communicate regularly with families about cultural practices for physical activity and sleep requirements
- liaise with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to seek advice about traditional children's games and dances that would be appropriate for use in the service
- ensure equitable access is provided to support children with additional needs. Consult with other health professional including the local Inclusion Support Agency to support children's physical development

EDUCATORS WILL:

- provide opportunities in the daily program for children to be active every day through a balance of planned and spontaneous active play experiences that are both educator led and child initiated (including everyday physical tasks), in the indoor and outdoor environments



- adhere to our *Sun Safety Policy* and ensure children have access to water before, during and after any physical activity experience
- include children's voices in the development of the physical environment to provide opportunities for physical activity, risky play and creativity
- collaborate with families and other professionals to provide active play experiences for all children inclusive of children with additional needs
- encourage children to be accepting and understanding of the different abilities of other children
- encourage children to engage in physical activity and challenge themselves
- seek to promote children's physical activity by supporting the development of their gross motor skills and fostering the emergence of their fundamental movement skills (FMS) through a range of intentionally planned and spontaneous active play learning experiences
- provide positive instruction, role modelling, and advice to children as they develop and improve their FMS
- encourage children to try a range of activities including obstacle courses, balancing, kicking, dancing and skipping, jumping, rolling, catching and throwing
- actively role model appropriate physical activity behaviours to children
- ensure active play experiences are play based, varied and creative
- ensure all equipment is developmentally appropriate and well maintained
- ensure that an appropriate balance between inactive and active time is maintained each day
- encourage productive sedentary experiences for rest and relaxation- reading, storytelling, puzzles, singing
- ensure documentation showcases physical activity experiences and opportunities with families

IN RELATION TO FAMILIES OUR SERVICE WILL:

- ensure the *Physical Activity Policy* is available to be viewed and reflected upon
- provide information and ideas about physical activity to promote children's physical health and wellbeing
- encourage families to share information about cultural backgrounds in relation to physical activity, language, traditional games and their child's sleep requirements
- collaborate with families to ensure children with additional needs have equitable access and are supported in all areas of the learning program.

THE AUSTRALIAN 24-HOUR MOVEMENT GUIDELINES- BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

Physical activity for young children mainly happens through unstructured, active play.



Infants (Birth to one year)

Babies should be physically active several times a day. This can be achieved through:

- opportunities for active play through supervised floor-based play in safe environments
- at least 30 minutes of tummy time including moving their arms and legs
- encouraging babies and infants to increase muscle strength and coordination by developing their small muscles within their fingers, hands and arms to be able manipulate small objects. This is achieved through play-based learning using reaching, grasping and pulling activities

Once they are mobile, include-

- crawling
- pulling up to a standing position and moving while holding onto things
- walking

Sedentary behaviour

- ensure infants are not restrained in a high chair or stroller for more than 1 hour at a time
- when sedentary, provide a range of activities – reading, puzzles, singing, storytelling
- screen time is not recommended for children under one

Sleep

- 14-17 hours (for those aged 0-3 months)
- 12- 16 hours (for those aged 4-11 months) of good quality sleep, including naps.

Toddlers (1–2 years)

Physical activity

- Toddlers should spend at least 180 minutes in a variety of physical activities, including energetic play, spread throughout the day; more is better
- Include- running, twirling and jumping, dancing and skipping
- Physical activity should be fun and encourage exploration and discovery

Sedentary behaviour

- ensure toddlers are not restrained for more than 1 hour at a time
- provide a range of activities when inactive such as– reading, puzzles, singing, storytelling, painting or doing craft, using building blocks
- screen time should be limited to no more than an hour for children aged 2 years; less is better.

Sleep

- 11-14 hours of good quality sleep, including naps with consistent sleep and wake-up times.



Pre-schoolers (3–5 years)

Physical activity

- Pre-schoolers should spend at least 180 minutes in a variety of physical activities, of which at least 60 minutes is energetic play, spread throughout the day; more is better

Sedentary behaviour

- ensure children are not restrained for more than 1 hour at a time (pram or car seat) or sitting for extended periods
- screen time should be no more than 1 hour; less is better
- when sedentary, provide a range of activities – reading, puzzles, singing, storytelling, using building blocks, painting or doing craft

Sleep

- 10-13 hours of good quality sleep with consistent sleep and wake-up times. Some preschoolers may still need naps.

Source: Australian Government. Department of Health and Aged Care. *Physical activity and exercise guidelines for all Australians. For infants, toddlers and preschoolers (birth to 5 years).* (2021)

SOURCES

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)
 Australian Government Department of Health. (2014). [Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines](#)

Australian Government. Department of Health and Aged Care. [Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for the Early Years \(birth to 5 years\): An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour and Sleep](#)

Australian Government Department of Health. *Get Up & Grow- Healthy eating and physical activity for early childhood.*

Early Childhood Australia *Statement on young children and digital technologies.* (2018).

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

[Education and Care Services National Regulations.](#) (Amended 2023).

Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth).

NSW Government Health. (2017) [Munch & Move Program](#)

NSW Government Health. *Good for kids good for life*

REVIEW

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| POLICY REVIEWED BY: | Carol Hopkins | CSO | June 2025 |
| POLICY REVIEWED | June 2025 | NEXT REVIEW DATE | Aug 2027 |
| VERSION NUMBER | • | | |
| MODIFICATIONS | • New Policy | | |
| APPROVED BY | | | |