

POLICY

POLICY 29: PARENTAL ACCESS TO CHILDREN

OVERARCHING PERSPECTIVE:

Perspective: Quality Service
Policy: Services and Programs

POLICY:

Families are of primary importance in child development. Because the family and the Educator have a common interest in the child's welfare, it is important to acknowledge a primary responsibility to bring about collaboration between the service and the family in ways that enhance the child's development. This collaboration should recognise the value of mutual respect between parent and Educator to ensure a quality program for all participants.

SCOPE:

This document applies to all Educators, Families, Coordination Unit Staff, Volunteers and Students of Our Village Family Childcare Service.

RATIONALE:

Access by parents to the Educator can assist parents to overcome anxieties associated with leaving a child in the care of another adult. While most parents are committed to the decision to use childcare, it is a common experience that many parents feel anxious, particularly in situations involving the first child or a new Educator. Anecdotal evidence supports the proposition that these anxieties are alleviated when the service has an open door policy.

It is therefore necessary for families to have access to their children at any time. It is also important to build support networks for families by providing them with opportunities to interact with the Educator and to see the Educator interact with their child and other children at any time.

PROCESS:

All Educators should ensure that parents and guardians have access to their children at any time during the hours that education and care is being provided. Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, part 4.6 collaborative partnerships with families and communities, regulation 157 (3).

Parents in turn have a responsibility to respect the privacy and needs of the Educator, her or his family, other children in care and their families. Therefore private areas of the home not used by the children in education and care are not to be accessed by families unless invited to do so by the Educator.

However, the Educator is not required to allow a parent to enter the Educator's residence if-

(a) permitting the parent's entry would:

- pose a risk to the safety of the children and the Educator; or
- conflict with any duty of the Educator under the Law; or
- the Educator is aware that the parent is prohibited by a court order from having contact with the child (Educator must have a copy of the court order. refer to policy 3 Arrivals and Departures). Regulation 157 (4).

DEFINITIONS:

REFERENCES:

Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2011 . Regulation 168

RELATED DOCUMENTS:


Enrolment and Orientation - 31

Drugs and Alcohol - 11

Occupational Health and Safety - 28

Duty of Care Policy

This box to be completed after final draft has been approved.

Issue Date:	November 2016	Previous Review(s):	Mar '12, Jul '10, Jul '15
Issue Number:	Four (4)	Next Review:	November 2019
Owner:	Manager, Family Day Care	<p>Signed in accordance with Deed of Delegation:</p> <p>1/12/2016</p> <p>X </p> <hr/> <p>Marcus Bosch General Manager, Child, Youth & Family Services Signed by: Marcus Bosch</p>	