

PURPOSE

Clarence Family Day Care Service will ensure the environment is safe, clean, and well maintained for children, families, educators, and visitors. Children's awareness of the environment and sustainable practice will be supported through daily practices, resources and interactions. The physical environment will support children's participation and engagement, development, learning, and safety, and will provide supervised access to positive experiences and inclusive relationships.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Staff, Educators, Educator Assistants, children, families, and visitors of Clarence Family Day Care Service.

POLICY

All educators' premises undergo an annual safety assessment to ensure that all necessary outdoor safety facilities at their place of business meet the safety standards prescribed in the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018. Educators are required to maintain safety standards at all times. Educators are supported by the co-ordination unit in providing a safe environment.

Safety assessments are undertaken prior to a new FDC premise being approved, every 12 months, whenever the premise changes due to renovations or changes or when deemed necessary.

PROCEDURE

The minimum standards for outdoor safety facilities include the features outlined below. Approval will only be issued to those premises which comply.

- Sandpit covers must always be replaced after use to prevent contamination by animals.
- Fence gates and staircase gates must always be kept closed.
- The grounds must be free of poisonous vegetation or poisonous plants known by the educator and supported by a risk assessment.
- Thorny plants and shrubs should be sensibly pruned or allowed to grow in an area in the garden inaccessible to the children.
- All hazardous equipment and substances including petrol, diesel, paint, gas, chemicals, camping equipment, building tools, gardening tools, firearms, hunting and fishing gear, must be securely locked away out of the reach of the children.
- Cars must be stored out of the play area.
- Cars must be locked so they are inaccessible to children, as should garden sheds and caravans.
- Swings should be located away from other play equipment, taking the arc of the swing into account.
- Equipment should be free from rust and sharp or rough edges should be smoothed or covered.
- Any boats or trailers should be covered and securely fastened.
- Grass should be kept short, but mowing should not take place when the children are there unless the children are able to be supervised by the educator in a place well away from the area being mown.
- Outdoor shoes kept on verandas, educators to model with children to check before putting them on for spiders.
- Children will have access to shaded outdoor play spaces.
- Educators will check their outdoor environment each day that their service is opened.

Outdoor places are to be of adequate size and provide opportunity for exploration, play and learning.

Benefit/Risk Assessments are required for any pets (even though they are away from children), pools, spa and any other item that may require one.

Benefit/Risk Assessments may be required for outdoor equipment as deemed required. They are required for swings, trampolines, high cubbies houses/forts, climbing frames and monkey bars.

Risk Assessments are required for large bodies of water ie pools, spas, dams

NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	NATIONAL QUALITY AREA	NATIONAL QUALITY ELEMENT/STANDARD
73, 74, 75, 76, 82, 86, 99, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 156, 168, 171	2	2.1: 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3 2.2: 2.2.1, 2.2.2
	3	3.1.1, 3.1.2

REFERENCE & RELATED INFORMATION

- Pretty but Poisonous, R.C.H. Shepherd, 2004
- Workplace Health and Safety Act
- Education and Care Services National Law Act
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Raising Children website – www.raisingchildren.net.au
- National Quality Standards
- Swimming Pools Act 1992
- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)
- KidSafe NSW - www.kidsafensw.org.au
- Australian Standards – www.standards.org.au