

# Children's Belonging's Policy

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This policy clarifies responsibilities for children's property when brought with them to our Service. We acknowledge that children will bring to the Service or carry with them certain personal belongings. This policy outlines the types of belongings that children may bring with them on a regular basis and the level of associated responsibility.

## National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported
2.1.2	Each child's comfort is provided for and there are appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children	
5.2.3	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained at all times

## PURPOSE

To ensure families and educators are aware of their responsibility regarding children's belonging including keeping them safe.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

It can be distressing for children to misplace their toys from home and can cause conflict between children.

- Children often want to share or show other children or Educators special things from home, but these treasures may be easily broken or lost. To save the upset and heartache, parents are requested to encourage children to leave their toys at home, unless they are essential to a child's emotional wellbeing and/or sense of belonging. We have numerous stimulating and challenging toys and resources for all children to play with and are in numerous quantities, catering to their interests.
- During exceptional program circumstances, the children may (on occasion) be able to bring with them personal belongings, this may include school holiday programs, news etc. News is a great way to encourage children to talk during group time about their special toy or personal belonging. This practice encourages children's social

development, enables children to voice thoughts, fears and feelings, broaden the cultural and social backgrounds of all children involved in group time activities, assist in the development of language skills and provide an opportunity for development of special interests for the group.

- We discourage the wearing of dress up clothes to the Service. For example: those incorporating capes, guns, holsters, knives or swords. Such clothing encourages violent play and may present a danger to the child and others within our child care environment
- If families choose to leave belongings in the Service during the day it is completely at the family's own risk and OSCA does not take any responsibility if items get lost or broken.

### Families will

- Be responsible for providing the child with appropriate belongings and property required for active participation in the Service. This property may include (but is not limited to):
  - Enclosed footwear
  - Weather appropriate clothing
  - Wide brim hat
  - Suitable School bag (backpack)
  - Appropriate food and lunch box
- Ensure all personal property and belongings will be clearly named or labelled.

### Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.

### Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
March 2017	Policy reviewed, no changes made.	March 2020