

Lockdown Policy

Our Service is committed to the ongoing safety and wellbeing of children, staff, families, and visitors. To achieve this, we will implement a clear plan to manage all emergency situations.

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety	
2.3.3	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
168	Policies and Procedures in relation to emergency and evacuation
97	Emergency and Evacuation procedures
98	Telephone or other communication equipment

PURPOSE

We aim to minimise the risk of harm, ensuring the safety of children, Educator's families, and visitors of the Service in the event of a threatening situation.

SCOPE

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

IMPLEMENTATION

We have set procedures to follow in the event of any emergency requiring evacuation and lock down. These procedures comply with regulatory requirements and are consistent with recommendations by recognised authorities. They are designed to ensure the precipitate, safe and calm evacuation of all children, staff, families, and visitors.

Whilst many emergency situations will require staff and children to evacuate from the Service, there are potential situations that will require the facility to go into 'lockdown'. For example, the following are examples of situations that may require lockdown:

- Extreme smoke from distant bushfire and severe storms
- Chemical or hazardous substance spill

- Gas leak / atmospheric hazardous substance
- Dangerous animal or insects
- Potentially dangerous intruder/unwanted or uninvited visitor
- Potentially violent/dangerous person due to intoxication or substance abuse
- Unidentified external disturbance

Lockdown means that all windows and external doors are locked, and where possible internal doors are locked, with children and adults being moved to a room/position that does not allow them to be viewed. Where possible access should be maintained to a bathroom and enough space should be available for children to be comfortably involved in quiet activities. It is therefore vital that appropriate spaces have been identified and displayed on an Emergency Lockdown Procedure. This information can be displayed on the Lock down procedure page, which can then be quickly taken from the wall when required. This act will ensure that in a situation involving unwanted visitors, the plan is not visible or available for them to use to predict your reaction.

Management or Nominated Supervisor will:

- Nominate the person/people with authority to manage the lockdown
- Define and list the circumstances in which the Service will identify a lockdown
- Determine communication channels
- Design a movement and wellbeing
- Develop an effective strategy for conducting the roll and communicating with children, educators, families, and visitors of the Service
- Document roles and responsibilities of staff and Educators
- Plan to maintain children's safety
- Ensure all children, staff, families, and visitors of the Service remain inside.
- If possible, Educators should make every effort to lock doors and windows.
- Ensure children remain in a confined area, or out of sight during the lockdown period.
- Practice emergency drills every day for 1 week during each term.
- Review and Reflect on each emergency drill to ensure strategies are effective

Source

- The Business of Childcare, Karen Kearns 2004
- Education and Care Services National Regulation 2015
- National Quality Standards
- Managing Emergency Situations in Education and Care Services

Review

Policy Review Date
November 2021

Lock Down Procedure

