

FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA

CHECKPOINT SERIES

CHILD SAFETY

A family day care educator must ensure that they are providing an environment where each child's safety is protected.¹

The National Regulations require your scheme to have specific policies and procedures in place² with many contributing to the provision of a safe environment for children.

Key Points

Each child's right to feel safe and be protected within their education and care environment is crucial. Providing a safe environment for children within your service involves the consideration of a number of aspects including:

- Managing the supervision of children within your home; during play sessions; and during all excursions and outings;
- Understanding what your responsibilities are with responding to children at risk of harm;
- Assisting children to understand and respect their environment including their participation in the development of safety rules and guidelines where appropriate;
- Your management of risks associated with the use of your home environment; and with the use of the broader community;
- Managing incidents and emergencies that occur in your service;
- Monitoring who has access to your service and ensuring that children are only released to authorised nominees;

- Understanding and following your service policies and procedures; and
- The possibility that safety and the management of risks may require varied strategies within different locations.

Checkpoint Questions

- Are you familiar with your service's policies and procedures?

Do you have systems in place with regard to your management of:

- Supervising children within your home environment?
- Supervising children during excursions and/or outings?
- Supervising children during service or community play sessions?
- Visitors to your home?
- Potential risks from dangerous products, plants, animals and objects?
- The transportation of children in line with current standards and laws?
- Emergency situations, action plans and rehearsals?
- The inclusion of children in safety discussions, risk identification and management?
- Maintaining your knowledge of current child protection legislation?
- The arrival and departure of children?

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Please note that the information in this Fact Sheet represents general guidance only to encourage critical reflection on your practice. If the content raises any concerns for you, please check with your Coordinator or Service.

¹ National Quality Standard 2.2. ² Regulation 168 – 169

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- Environmental risk assessments?
- Making arrangements for potential excursions?
- Any changes with safety standards for equipment, materials and practices?

Useful Resources

[Kidsafe Australia Home Page](#)

[Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne](#)

[Safety Fact Sheets](#)

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