

Excursion & On-site Activity Policy

Purpose

Peak will provide a range of excursions and on-site activities, particularly during Vacation Care sessions, to extend the educational programming at the service. We believe these experiences enrich the children's learning by allowing them to engage with members of the community who have specialised knowledge in a wide range of areas, additional to that of Peak educators. Excursions are designed to allow children to explore their physical and social environment, including their local community, away from the service's premises.

In planning excursions and on-site activities, input is gained from families, staff and children. Permission is sought for all excursions and on-site activities, they are carefully planned, with potential risks assessed and minimised. Educators take into consideration planning experiences that encourage and extend the children's knowledge, allowing them to learn through the My Time Our Place outcomes.

Considerations

Education and Care Services National Regulations	National Quality Standard/s	Other Service policies/documentation	Other
Regulations: 100 to 102	Standard 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.3.3, 2.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transportation Policy- Transport Safety Management Plan- Health & Safety Policies including Sun Safety and Water Safety	My Time, Our Place. Child Safe Standards

Procedures

Planned on-site activities and excursions will consider:

- Children's ages, abilities and interests.
- Ways to maximise the children's developmental experiences and opportunities to practice new skills.
- Suitability of the venue.
- Clothing and equipment required.
- Travel arrangements.
- Keeping additional costs for families to a minimum.

Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment must be prepared for each excursion. They will include:

- The proposed route and destination for the excursion;
- Any water hazards;
- Any risks associated with water-based activities
- The transport to and from the proposed destination for the excursion;
- The expected number of adults and children involved in the excursion;

- The number of educators or other responsible adults required to ensure appropriate supervision. This number will be determined by taking into consideration the risks posed by the excursion and whether any adults with specialised skills are required;
- The proposed activities;
- The likely length of time of the excursion;
- A checklist of items that should be taken on the excursion: attendance roll, first aid kit including EpiPen and asthma puffers, medications, first aid register, mobile phone and a list of emergency contact numbers.
- Verbal instructions to children on safety guidelines and appropriate behaviour expected whilst on excursions.

Alternative Locations within the School

From time to time, Peak may need to relocate to another building within the school, for example the school library or a classroom at the same school address. Centre Supervisors will ensure that the information and equipment necessary for excursions is taken to the alternative location.

Permission

- Families' permission will be obtained at arrival to the centre on the day of each excursion or on-site activity. Specific permission is required for swimming. By signing the excursion permission form, the family member is authorising their child to attend the activities stated.
- Excursions to locations visited on a regular basis such as a local aged care centre may be undertaken without prior notice if families of children in the group have given excursion permission. If an excursion is a regular outing, the authorisation is only required to be obtained once in a 12-month period. Once an initial risk assessment has been carried out for regular outings, risk assessments are not required for subsequent outings to the same place, unless there is a change to the place or venue.

Supervision

- Children will be orientated to the risk elements and procedures prior to attending any excursion. This includes elements such as what to do if they become separated from the group, toilet procedures, talking to strangers etc.
- Adequate numbers of educators to effectively supervise the children will be rostered on for excursions. Numbers of educators take into consideration the ages and developmental stage of the children attending the excursion and be based on a risk assessment of the excursion.
- Head counts are conducted regularly throughout the duration of the excursion.
- Children will wear a wrist band for identification on excursions that clearly states the name of the service and the contact phone number.
- An educator will inspect all public toilets before children use them. An educator is stationed outside the door of restrooms and at least one other child will accompany any child when using a public toilet.
- When walking the children, one educator will lead the group, another to follow at the back, and the remaining educators spaced along the group, walking on the road side of the footpath.
- When crossing a road, a pedestrian crossing will be used if possible. If there is no pedestrian crossing, the safest way to cross the road must be determined. One educator must step out onto the road, and if necessary, stop traffic from both directions. The remaining educators then lead children across the road.

Information and Equipment

Information and equipment to be taken on excursions will include:

- The daily roll featuring a list of all children attending and special information sheet on medical considerations
- The centre mobile phone with contacts for each child and emergency contact numbers
- The Hart first aid kit including asthma puffers and EpiPen
- Any medication for children attending and their medication administration form
- First aid register
- Other information/equipment noted on the Risk Assessment.

Lost Child

In the event that a child is lost during an excursion the well-being and safety of the other children in the group will be considered and at least one educator will remain with the group.

- Inform other educators in your group.
- Ask the children if they have seen the missing child recently.
- Reassure any child who may be upset.
- Search the premises.
- Check the meeting points.
- Ask the venue staff to begin a search and make an announcement over a loudspeaker if possible.
- Once initial checks have been undertaken and if the lost child has not been found, the Director or Supervisor will call the Police and the family.

Method of Transport on Excursions

Venues that are within walking distance

- In circumstances where the excursion venue is close to the service children and educators will walk to the venue
- To ensure the safety of educators and children:
 - There will be a pre-determined route
 - A risk assessment will be completed prior to the day.

Venues that require transportation by vehicle

- Where the excursion venue is not within walking distance children will be transported to the excursion venue via privately owned buses operated by appropriately licensed and trained Peak Sports and Learning drivers.
- A risk assessment will be completed prior to the day and will identify the safest transport route.
- Any vehicle transporting children will park in a safe location and will not require children to cross roads (where possible).
- Bus Transportation Procedures to ensure the safety of educators and children as above will be adhered to before, during and after transport as per the Transport Safety Management Plan and Policy.

Water Safety

- The service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely.
- A ratio of 1 educator to 5 children will be maintained on water-based excursions such as the local swimming pool

- Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities.
- Additional information will be obtained about each child’s swimming ability from parents, along with an onsite practical assessment conducted in the pool to ensure that non-swimmers are identified. Non-swimmers will not be allowed to enter the deep part of the pool.

Version Control Table

Version Control	Date Released	Next Review	Approved by	Amendment
1	Jan 2017	July 2019	Directors	Nil – Small amendments to procedure
2	August 2019	August 2020	Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rewritten and edited to reflect 2018 updated Quality Standards. - Permission and risk assessments of On-site activities added - Sections added on procedures for lost children, walking excursions, bus transportation, water safety.
3	December 2019	September 2020	Directors	Amended term incursion to on-site activity. Moved to new document review timeline.
4	September 2020	May 2022	Directors	Amendment to some wording in reference to updates to Transportation Policy.