

Television and Other Media Policy

Published	June 2018
Review Date	December 2019
Sources	<p>Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the National Quality Standard, February 2018</p> <p>www.cybersmart.gov.au</p> <p>www.heartfoundation.org.au, "Unplug + Play" Brochure</p> <p>www.community.nsw.gov.au, "TV, Computers and the Internet" Fact Sheet</p> <p>www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au</p>

Aim:

To ensure that television and other media are used appropriately in the Family Day Care environment, and that the amount of screen time used is within current recommended practice.

Definition:

Other Media

Other media refers to computers, laptops, mobile phones, electronic games and any other handheld devices used to entertain or play games on.

Screen Time

Time spent in front of any piece of equipment that has a screen e.g. television, computer, electronic games.

Responsibilities:

In relation to Co-ordination Unit Staff:

- Be aware of the requirements of the current Education and Care Services National Regulations and relevant National Quality Standard in relation to the use of television and other media
- Provide relevant and up-to-date information to Educators and families on the recommended screen times for children
- Provide relevant and up-to-date information to Educators and families on using the internet safely

In relation to Educators:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulations and the National Quality Standard in relation to the use of television and other media
- Limit children's screen time
- Current recommendations for children's screen time is:
 - 0 (Nil) hours for children under 2 years of age
 - No more than 2 hours per day for children over 2 years of age, taking into account that you only have the children for part of the day
- Television and other media should not be used as a form of babysitting, they should be used for a specified time and then turned off
- Television and other media are to be age appropriate
- Programs classified "C" for Children, "P" for Pre-School or "G" for General are appropriate
- Games for game consoles classified with a "G" rating are appropriate
- Any DVD's or Games that are not classified with a "G", "P", or "C" rating should be made inaccessible to the children

- Ensure that other family members are aware of the requirements of this policy and support the implementation of it
- Be aware of the age differences of the children you have in care and ensure that within the program classifications that any show watched, or games played are appropriate for all
- If the internet is used, this should only be done under close adult supervision and with the installation of a Child Safe Filter
- Television shows and DVD's may be shown based on children's interest and used as a tool to support the program
- Provide other activities for those children who do not wish to participate in screen time
- Be respectful of parent's choices around what TV viewing their children are exposed to
- Be respectful of parent's choices around what other media their children are exposed to
- Encourage children and families to leave other media items at home

In relation to OOSH Programs:

- OOSH Programs refer to children who are attending school and utilise a Before School Care, After School Care or Holiday Care Program
- Television and other media are to be age appropriate
- Programs classified "C" for Children, "P" for Pre-School, "G" for General or "PG" for Parental Guidance are appropriate
- Games for game consoles classified with a "G" and "PG" rating are appropriate
- Any DVD's or Games that are not classified with a "P", "C", "G" or "PG" rating should be made inaccessible to the children
- Any "PG" rated programs or games are to be watched or played under guidance from the Educator
- Any "PG" rated programs or games are to be watched or played are done so at the discretion of the Educator to ensure that the content is suitable for the age range of children in care
- Upon enrolment families must sign the Rating Consent section in the enrolment forms

In relation to Families:

- Inform Educators as to which television programs or DVD's your children are able to watch
- Inform Educators as to whether or not your child may use other media, and if so which other media you are comfortable with
- Discourage children from bringing other media to Family Day Care

Continual Monitoring and Improvement:

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

Policy Review

Date Revised	Comments
August 2013	Scheduled Policy Review – added changes to current recommendations for the ages of children watching TV
November 2014	Added section "In relation to OOSH Programs" & PG ratings
February 2015	Scheduled Policy Review – No changes made
August 2016	Scheduled Policy Review – No changes made
June 2018	Update sources