Television and Other Media

Policy Statement

This policy acts to ensure that:

→ The service is thoughtful in their use of television and other media within the service, and that media is used as a learning tool

→ Television and other media are used appropriately within the service environment, and children's safety is maintained throughout

→ Children are supported to manage the guidelines surrounding the amount of screen time that is currently recommended

Definitions

Other Media

Other media refers to computers, laptops, mobile phones, electronic games, iPads, smart watches and any other handheld devices used to entertain or play games on, paper media (newspapers, magazines) or music

Screen Time

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

Roles and Responsibilities

Nominated Supervisors/Coordinators

→ Provide up-to-date resources and 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

Educators

→ Limit children's screen time at the service

→ 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 consideration that you only have the children for a small 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, "G" for General or "PG" for Parental Guidance Recommended are appropriate

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
September 2022

Policy Review Date
September 2024

→ Games for game consoles classified with a "G" and "PG" rating are appropriate

→ Any DVD's or Games that are not classified with a "G", "P", or "C" or "PG" rating should be made inaccessible to the children

→ Any "PG" rated programs or games 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

→ Families will be asked to confirm rating suitability for their child prior to watching/playing any games at the service

→ Ensure that all Educators, and Family Members (for Family Day Care) are aware of the requirements of this policy and support the implementation of it

→ Be aware of the age differences of the children that are in care and ensure that within the program classifications that any show watched or games played are appropriate for all

→ Be mindful of conversations taking place at the service between children in regard to shows watched or games played at home
  → Is the content of the games/shows being discussed appropriate to the age of the children attending the service?
  → Is the content of games being made up/imitated to play at the service, based on games/shows seen appropriate for the age of the children attending the service?
  → Children should be reminded that discussions/games around shows/games that are not appropriate for the age of children attending the service are not to be continued at the service

→ 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 devices at home

→ Have a designated "Media Device Box" where children can safely leave any devices they bring to care, such as mobile phones and smart watches. The devices will be returned to the children as they depart for the day

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 devices to the service

Country Children's Early Learning Website – Resource Page

→ CCEL's resource page will be a source for sharing information, activities/experiences with Educators, staff, parents and children

→ The resources webpage includes zoom webinars and photos. These webinars and photos may include videos or photos of children attending CCEL's services participating in activities or experiences

→ Educators need to exercise due diligence when checking the content and all that is included in the photo and video picture, text and audio to ensure all content is appropriate and consistent with the privacy act

→ No filming and photographs of children is to be published on this site, unless written permission has been given by parents/guardians

Social Networking Websites

→ It is expected that the principles of Privacy and Confidentiality addressed for the Approved Provider, Coordinators, Educators, and Parents in this policy will be maintained when any parties are using social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

→ Social networking sites are a public arena, and it is therefore not appropriate for any information regarding the service to be discussed on such sites

Country Children's Early Learning & Country Kids Club Facebook Pages

→ To be used as a tool for communicating general information with Educators, staff and parents that is non-specific to any person or venue

→ CCEL's Facebook pages will be a source for sharing the following information with Educators, staff and parents:
  → Policies, Procedures and Guidelines
  → Child Development and Health Facts
  → Training clips/movies for parents
  → Training dates for parents
  → Reminders for upcoming events

Country Kids Club & Family Day Care Educator Networking Facebook Pages

→ To be used as a tool for communicating general information with Educators and staff that is non-specific to any person, residence or service

→ Educator Networking Facebook pages are only for people employed or contracted by Country Children's Early Learning

→ The Educator Networking Facebook page will be a source for sharing the following information with Educators and staff:
  → Policies, Procedures and Guidelines
  → Child Development and Health Facts
  → Training clips/movies for Educators and staff
  → Training dates for Educators and staff
  → Photos suggesting ideas on how to use new equipment
  → Reminders for upcoming events

Protocol

→ No children or families are to be discussed or pictured on the site

→ No Educators, staff or their families are to be discussed on the site

→ Educators and staff pictures will only be displayed with the consent of the Educator or Staff Member

→ Facebook is not to be used as a personal communication tool between Families and Educators/Staff, Educators/Staff and Educators/Staff (e.g. what they are doing on the weekend, their child is sick and won't be in today)

→ Any person that posts inappropriate or offensive information will be asked to remove it

→ Parents who themselves, or whose friends do not abide by the protocol will be unfriended and risk losing their position with CCEL

→ Educators or staff who themselves, or whose friends do not abide by the protocol will be unfriended and risk losing their position with CCEL

Electronic Devices used for Microsoft Teams/Team Viewer

→ Country Children's Early Learning will use Microsoft Teams and Team Viewer as a way of communication/face to face meetings and viewing of documents between the Approved Provider/Coordinators and Educators/Staff Members

Paper Media (Newspapers, Magazines, Books, Scrap Paper)

→ All paper media will be visually scanned by Educators prior to use for any inappropriate content, any inappropriate content will be removed

Music

→ A variety of music will be played within the service which incorporates a range of cultures, styles and sounds

→ Music is used as a learning tool for singing, dancing, relaxing and enjoyment

→ The atmosphere of the room should determine the level of the volume of the music to be played at

→ The type and style of the music will be appropriate for the age and developmental level of the children attending

→ The radio is not considered appropriate to be played

Continual Monitoring and Improvement

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

→ Incidental and planned consultation with families

→ Approved Provider and Coordinators accessing current relevant information

→ Approved Provider, Coordinators and Educators accessing current and relevant training

→ Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

SOURCES

→ Education and Care Services National Regulations - December 2021
→ Education and care Services National Law - January 2022
→ Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations - October 2017
→ Guide to the National Quality Standard - January 2020
→ Implementing the Child Safe Standards: A Guide for Early Education and Outside School Hours Care Services, NSW Department of Education, 2021
→ A Guide to the Child Safe Standards, NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, 2020
→ ACECQA – FDC Approved Provider compliance responsibilities – October 2017
→ Be You
→ My Time Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia
→ The Early Years Learning Framework
→ ECA Code of Ethics
→ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
→ E-Safety
→ Eat Smart Play Smart
→ Turn Off Screens
→ Times When Children are not Active
→ "Unplug + Play" Brochure
→ "TV, Computers and the Internet" Fact Sheet
→ Munch & Move

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:
→ Child-Safe Environment
→ Privacy & Confidentiality