

Assessment and Reassessment of FDC Residences and Venues

Policy Statement

This policy acts to ensure that:

- The health, safety and wellbeing of children being educated and cared for within the service is protected through regular assessment and reassessment of the Family Day Care Residences and Approved Family Day Care Venues

Explanation

Country Children's Early Learning provide Family Day Care Venues only in exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the regulatory authority.

Examples of exceptional circumstances that may be considered by the Regulatory Authority include:

- Where the proposed venue is located in a rural or remote area, and the location or characteristic of residences are not suited to FDC
- Other location where potential residences are not suited to FDC
- For a temporary period (generally up to 12 months) where a residence is unavailable due to essential major repairs or the effects of natural disaster
- Where care is provided for a small group of vulnerable or disadvantaged children and a suitable residence is not available

Goals

- To conduct an initial assessment prior to an Educator starting with the service, and then regular reassessments as an Educator continues with the service to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children and families using our service are maintained

Roles and Responsibilities

Service

- The Nominated Supervisor or Coordinator will conduct an assessment, including an Initial Risk Assessment and CCEL Annual Risk Assessment of each residence and approved venue of the service prior to education and care being provided to children

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
May 2023

Policy Review Date
May 2025

- The Nominated Supervisor or Coordinator will conduct an assessment, including a Risk Assessment of each operating residence and approved venue at least once a year
- Provide Educators with a copy of the current Kidsafe “Family Day Care Safety Guidelines”
- When conducting an assessment the following matters must be considered:
 - The premises, furniture and equipment used in providing the education and care service are to be safe, clean and in good repair
 - Fencing and security
 - The sufficiency of the furniture, materials and equipment
 - The adequacy of laundry facilities or other arrangements for dealing with soiled clothing
 - The adequacy of toilet, handwashing and drying facilities
 - The adequacy of ventilation and natural light
 - Glass safety – any glazed area of the residence or approved venue must comply with current Building Code of Australia if the area is accessible to children and is 1 metre above floor level or less.
 - The suitability of the residence or venue according to the number, ages and abilities of the children who attend or are likely to attend the service
 - The suitability of nappy change arrangements for children who wear nappies
 - The existence of any water hazards, water features or swimming pools at or near the premises
 - Driveway hazards
 - Any risk posed by animals
 - Additional risks that require mitigation and assessment
- If any residence or venue being assessed does not meet the requirements of the regulations, approval will not be given for that residence and an application will not be made for the venue to provide an education and care service

Assessment for a new residence or venue:

- Make an initial visit to the residence or approved venue
- Discuss the regulation requirements and safety
- Complete the Kidsafe Hazard Reduction Checklist found in the Kidsafe “Family Day Care Safety Guidelines”
- In consultation with the Educator complete the Resident/Venue Risk Assessment Form
- Submit an application to DEC’s via NQAITS

Assessment for an operating residence or venue:

- Annually complete the Kidsafe Hazard Reduction Checklist found in the Kidsafe “Family Day Care Safety Guidelines”
- In consultation with the Educator complete the Resident/Venue Risk Assessment Form
- Every 12 months review the Resident/View Risk Assessment, or as changes occur
- Assist Educators to maintain additional risk assessments in their CCEL Diary to manage additional risk at their home /venue or for specific activities

Educators

- Be familiar with the Kidsafe “Family Day Care Safety Guidelines”
- In consultation with Country Children’s Early Learning complete the Resident/Venue Risk Assessment Form
- If guns are kept on the premises, Educators are required to provide Country Children’s Early Learning with a copy of the gun owners Gun Licence and any Certificate of Compliance after each routine Police Inspection
- Educators with swimming pools are required to provide Country Children’s Early Learning with a Certificate of Certification by the NSW Government
- Advise Country Children’s Early Learning of:
 - Any proposed renovations to their residence or venue
 - Any changes in their residence or venue that may affect matters considered as part of their assessment of the premises e.g. acquiring a pet
 - Any other changes to the residence or venue that that will affect the education and care provided to the children as part of the Family Day Care Service

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

LINKS TO:

- **Education & Care Services National Law**
Section 50A, 54(1a), (8a), 103a, 167, 174, 174a
- **Education & Care Services National Regulations**
26, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 117, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 176a, 177
- **National Quality Standards/Elements:**
2.1, 2.2, 3.2.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1.2, 7.1.3
- **Child Safe Standards**
1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10

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
- Kidsafe "Family Day Care Safety Guidelines"
- [ACECQA – Assessments of FDC Residences and Venues](#)

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

- Child-Safe Environment
- Emergency Evacuation and Lockdown
- Governance & Management
- Incident, Illness, Injury & Trauma
- Monitoring, Support & Supervision
- Registration and Assessment of FDC Educators & Educator Assistants
- Safe Transportation of Children
- Sleep & Rest
- Sunsmart
- Training & Professional Development
- Water Safety