



**Kinburra Preschool**

# Children’s Belongings Policy

This policy clarifies responsibilities for children’s property when brought with them to Kinburra Preschool. We acknowledge that children will bring to Kinburra or carry with them certain personal belongings. This policy outlines the types of belongings that children may bring with them on a regular basis and the level of associated responsibility.

**NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)**

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships, which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
155	Interactions with children



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156	Interactions in groups
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

#### RELATED POLICIES

Enrolment Policy Family Communication Policy	Orientation of Families Policy Respect for Children Policy
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#### PURPOSE

To ensure families and educators are aware of their responsibility regarding children's belonging including keeping them safe.

#### SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the service.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

It can be distressing for children to misplace their toys from home and can cause conflict between children.

- Children often want to share or show other children or caregivers special things from home, but these treasures may be easily broken or lost. To save the upset and heartache, parents are requested to encourage children to leave their toys at home, unless they are essential to a child's emotional wellbeing and/or sense of belonging. We have numerous stimulating and challenging toys and resources for all children to play with and are in numerous quantities, catering to their interests.
- Special time is a fantastic opportunity to start children's public speaking skills. We encourage children to bring in photos or items of interest in preference to commercial toys. This practice encourages children's social development, enables children to vocalise thoughts, fears and feelings, broaden the



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cultural and social backgrounds of all children involved in group time activities, assist in the development of language skills and provide an opportunity for development of special interests for the group.

#### **NOMINATED SUPERVISORS, RESPONSIBLE PERSON, EDUCATORS AND STAFF WILL:**

- We will provide appropriate storage for lost property that will be available to children and families at all times.
- Any grievances or concerns related to lost, damaged or stolen property of the children will be managed in accordance with the *Grievance Policy and Procedure*.
- We will take as much care as possible in ensuring that personal belongings are returned to the correct family.
- We will encourage children who bring special belongings into Preschool to place them in a special “toys from home” box to reduce the prospect of them becoming lost or broken.
- We will enforce a non-violent toy policy in which we seek family assistance in preventing their children to bring in violent toys from home. Any such toys will be removed from the child immediately and placed in the reception area for parental collection at the end of the day.
- We discourage the wearing of dress up clothes to Kinburra. For example: those incorporating capes, guns, holsters, knives or swords. Such clothing encourages violent play and may present a danger to the child and others within our environment.
- The staff and educators will take as much care as possible in ensuring that belongings are returned to their correct family. The labelling of all items can help us achieve this. However, we must make it clear that Kinburra is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items. If families choose to leave belongings at Kinburra during the day it is completely at the family’s own risk.
- We will actively encourage children to care for their belongings by:
  - Reminding children appropriately when belongings need to be placed in storage e.g. Lunch box into bag
  - Providing suitable storage to keep belongings safe
  - Collaborate with families any item of personal belonging which is either special, expensive or at risk of being damaged to be kept in a secured and safe position
- We will inform the family through relevant newsletters and publications such as the family handbook of appropriate personal belongings required at Kinburra.

#### **FAMILIES WILL:**



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- Be responsible for providing the child with appropriate belongings and property required for active participation at Kinburra. This property may include (but is not limited to):
  - Enclosed footwear
  - Weather appropriate clothing
  - Wide brim hat
  - Sun safe clothing
  - Container/flask for water
  - Suitable School bag (backpack)
  - Appropriate food and lunch box
- Ensure all personal property and belongings will be clearly named or labelled.

### **Comfort toys/ Security Items**

Many children have a 'security' item that soothes them and helps them to cope throughout a busy day. Security items may include items such as a special blanket, dummy, soft toy, or even a strip of satin ribbon from a blanket etc.

We recommend that if children have a comfort toy or security item that it is labelled (if possible) and brought to the service each day. When not required or in use we will ensure that it has a designated storage space that is known to the child.

Parents are encouraged to regularly discuss the use of comfort toys/security items with educators as their child's needs change.

### **SOURCE**

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (amended 2020).

*Privacy Act 1988*.

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

### **REVIEW**



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POLICY REVIEWED	MARCH 2021	NEXT REVIEW DATE	MARCH 2022
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of related regulations</li> <li>• Minor edits</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE
MARCH 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional information added to roles of educators and staff</li> <li>• Small edits to sentences to improve flow</li> <li>• Sources checked for currency</li> </ul>		MARCH 2021
MARCH 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction re-worded to be more concise</li> <li>• Re-wrote &amp; added information to 'Comfort toys' section</li> <li>• Additional information added to points</li> <li>• Sources/references alphabetised</li> </ul>		MARCH 2020