

2.10V DELIVERY AND COLLECTION OF CHILDREN



QUALITY AREA 2 | VERSION 1.0

PURPOSE

This policy provides a clear set of guidelines to ensure the safe delivery and collection of children attending LEVNT EC Services by ensuring:

- Children are given into the care of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record, or a person authorised by the parent/guardian or authorised nominee over the age of 16 years.
- Children leave in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee.
- Children are taken on an excursion or on transportation provided or arranged by the service, with written authorisation from the parent or authorised nominee.
- Children are given into the care of a person, or taken outside the premises, because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment, or because of another emergency.

POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

LEVNT EC Services are committed to:

- the safety, health and wellbeing of the children at our service
- ensuring all LEVNT EC Services policies and procedures safeguard the safe delivery and collection of children being educated and cared for at the service
- ensuring that service leaders, ECT's, educators and staff are provided with the necessary training and support to implement the policies and procedures for the delivery of children to, and collection from, the service premises
- meeting its duty of care obligations under the law

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, parents/guardians, student educators, volunteers and contractors attending LEVNT EC Services.

BACKGROUND

A duty of care exists at all times the child is attending a children's service. In addition, the service has a duty of care to a child while they are on the service's premises even if they haven't yet been signed into the service or have been signed out of the service and are legally under the care and supervision of the parent/guardian (refer to Supervision of Children Policy).

The child may only leave the service in the care of a parent/guardian, authorised nominee or a person authorised by one of these parties to collect the child. An authorised person does not include a parent who is prohibited by a court/parenting order from having contact with the child. An exception is made in the event of a medical or other emergency (refer to Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and Emergency and Evacuation Policy) and for excursions (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy).

DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms refer to the Definitions file of each LEVNT EC policy folder.

Inappropriate person: A person who may pose a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of any child attending the education and care service, or whose behaviour or state of mind make it inappropriate

for him/her to be on the premises e.g. a person under the influence of drugs or alcohol (National Law: Section 171(3)).

Unauthorised person: (in relation to this policy) is any person who has not been listed as an authorised nominee on the child’s enrolment form.

RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the table below, the Approved Provider, persons with management and control, nominated supervisor and/persons in day-to-day charge are responsible for meeting requirements set out in [Attachment 1: Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor Responsibilities](#). Actions which are legislated requirements of the ECEC sector are indicated with **LR**.

	Approved Provider and/or persons with management	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teachers, educators and all other staff	Parents, guardians and carers	Contractors, volunteers and those on student placement
Ensuring that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensuring parents/guardians have completed the authorised nominee section of their child’s enrolment form, and that the form is signed and dated (refer to Enrolment and Orientation Policy)	LR	✓		✓	
Providing an attendance record that meets the requirements of and ensure the arrival and departure times are recorded by the parent/guardian or authorised nominee on delivery and collection of their child from the service every day	LR	✓			
Ensuring the arrival and departure times are recorded in the attendance record is by the parent/guardian, authorised nominee, nominated supervisor or an educator, detailing the child’s time of arrival and departure from the service	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Developing safety procedures for the mass arrival and departure of children from the service	LR	✓	✓		
Ensuring educators and parents are aware that their child has arrived at/been collected from the service and to have procedures in place to ensure this process			✓	✓	✓
Ensuring a child does not leave the service except with a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or with the written authorisation of one of these or in the case of a medical or other emergency (refer to Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy, Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Incident, Injury Trauma and Illness Policy and Child Safe Environment Policy)	LR	✓	✓		✓
Refusing to allow a child to depart from the service with a person who is not the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or where there is no written authorisation of one of these (refer to Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy)	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensuring a child is not taken outside the service premises on an excursion or regular outing except with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensuring authorisation procedures are in place for excursions, regular outings and other service events (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy), including the authorisation for transporting children	LR	LR	✓		
Following the procedures to ensure the safe collection of children	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Approved Provider and/or persons with management	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teachers, educators and all other staff	Parents, guardians and carers	Contractors, volunteers and those on student placement
Following procedures in the event that an inappropriate person attempts to collect a child from the service, including a person under the age of 16 years without prior arrangement between parent/guardian and service	LR	✓	✓		✓
Informing the Approved Provider as soon as is practicable, but within 24 hours, if a child has left the service unattended by an adult or with an unauthorised person		✓	✓		✓
Keeping a written record of all visitors to the service, including time of arrival and departure	LR	✓	✓		
Following procedures for the late collection of children	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collecting their child on time at the end of each session/day				✓	
Alerting the service if they are likely to be late collecting their child				✓	
Paying a late-collection fee if required by the service's Fees Policy				✓	
Ensuring that the educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times children are in attendance at the service (including when children are collected late from the service) according to the requirements (refer also to Supervision of Children Policy)	LR	✓	✓		✓
Should any incidents occur relating to the delivery of children to, or collection from, the service premises, ensuring that the response meets all regulatory requirements, including implementing the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy	LR	✓	✓		✓
Ensuring children are adequately supervised at all times (refer to Supervision of Children Policy)	LR	✓	✓		✓
Supervising their own child before signing them into the program and after they have signed them out of the program				✓	
Supervising other children in their care, including siblings, while attending or assisting at the service				✓	
Ensuring the entry/exit doors and gates are kept closed during program hours	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensuring that early childhood teachers, educators, staff and parents/guardians comply with the service's Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy	LR	✓	✓	✓	✓

SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Late collection procedures are outlined in [ATTACHMENT 5: Procedures for the Late Collection of Children](#), however, it is important parents/guardians understand their obligations in relation to late collection fees at LEVNT EC Services.

A late collection fee may be charged at the Service Leader's discretion and in accordance with the Fees Policy of the service. When charging a late fee, LEVNT EC Services charge a fee of \$20 for the first 15 minutes a parent is late, and \$1 per minute thereafter.

Multiple occurrences of late collection will result in consultation with the family and key-stakeholders to ascertain what (if any) further actions can be taken to support the family or end enrolment at the service. Further information about this procedure is outlined in the service's parent handbook.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- assess whether a satisfactory resolution has been achieved in relation to issues arising from this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of a policy review cycle, or as required
- notify all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk

AUTHORISATION & REVIEW

This policy was adopted by Lutheran Education VIC, NSW, TAS and ACT Ltd as representative of the Approved Provider for this service on 1 September 2022.

REVIEW DATE November 2023 or earlier as required.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1: Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities outlined in the table above, the Approved Provider and/or persons with management and control, and the Nominated Supervisor and/or persons in day-to-day charge have a number of additional legislated responsibilities relevant to their position.

- Ensuring that there are procedures in place when a child is given into the care of another person, such as for a medical or other emergency (refer to Emergency and Evacuation Policy and Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy).
- Implementing the authorisation procedures outlined in Attachment 2 in the event that a parent/guardian or authorised nominee telephones the service to advise that a person not listed on their child's enrolment form will be collecting their child.
- Ensuring that parents/guardians or authorised nominees are contacted in the event that an unauthorised person arrives to collect a child from the service, and that appropriate procedures are followed.
- Following the authorisation procedures and contacting the parents/guardians or authorised nominees if an unauthorised person arrives to collect a child from the service.
- Ensuring procedures are in place for the care of a child who has not been collected from the service on time.
- Notifying DET in writing within 24 hours, and the parents as soon as is practicable, in the event of a serious incident, including when a child has left the service unattended by an adult or with an unauthorised person.
- Providing parents/guardians with information regarding procedures for delivery and collection of children prior to their child's commencement at the service.
- Displaying an up-to-date list of the telephone numbers of the Approved Provider, DET, Child FIRST, DHS Child Protection Service and the local police station.

ATTACHMENT 2: Authorisation Procedures

These procedures are to be followed when a child is collected by an unauthorised person, including where a parent/guardian or authorised nominee telephones the service to notify that such a person will be collecting their child.

The nominated supervisor will:

- request that the parent/guardian or authorised nominee email the authorisation if it is possible to do so, detailing the name, address and telephone number of the person who will be collecting the child
- accept a verbal authorisation if it is not possible for the parent/guardian or authorised nominee to provide authorisation via email or fax, provided the following procedure is followed:
 - o all details of the person collecting the child, including the name, address and telephone number of the person must be obtained
 - o two educators take the verbal authorisation message (recommended by DET)
 - o the verbal authorisation is documented and stored with the child's enrolment record for follow-up
 - o photo identification is obtained to confirm the person's identity on arrival at the service
 - o ensure that parents/guardians or authorised nominees follow up a verbal authorisation by completing an Authorisation Form when next at the service, or by adding details of the new authorised nominee to the child's enrolment form
- ensure that fax or email authorisation is stored with the child's enrolment record
- ensure the attendance record is completed prior to child leaving the service
- refuse to release a child where authorisation is not/cannot be provided by the parent/guardian or authorised nominee
- contact police if the safety of the child or service staff is threatened
- implement late collection procedures if required
- notify the Approved Provider in the event that written authorisation is not provided for further follow-up

ATTACHMENT 3: Authorisation Form

To be used as a follow-up to a verbal/email authorisation when the parent/guardian or authorised nominee is next at the service

I _____ authorised by telephone/email (please circle)
 for my child/ren (*write name/s*) _____ to
 be

collected from _____ EC Service (*insert name*) on
 [Date] by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

This was a one-off occasion, and this person is **not** to be included on my child's enrolment form as an authorised nominee to collect my child on an ongoing basis.

Signed: _____ (Parent/guardian or authorised nominee)

Date: _____

This form will be attached to the child's enrolment form.

ATTACHMENT 4: Procedures to Ensure the Safe Collection of Children

Early childhood professionals have a duty of care not to endanger children at the service by knowingly placing them in a situation that could reasonably be expected to be dangerous, including releasing a child into the care of an inappropriate person including a person who may pose a risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of any child/ren at the service.

Where an educator believes that the parents/guardians or authorised nominee may be ill, affected by alcohol or drugs, or not able to safely care for the child, the following procedures must be followed.

- Consult with the nominated supervisor or the Approved Provider, if possible.
- Advise the person collecting the child of their concerns and suggest contacting an alternative authorised nominee to collect the child.
- If the nominated supervisor or the Approved Provider fears for the safety of the child, themselves or other service staff at any time, call 000 or contact the police immediately.
- Complete the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record and file with the child's enrolment form.
- Inform the Approved Provider as soon as is practicable, and at least within 24 hours of the incident.
- Inform the Regulatory Authority (DET) within 24 hours of a serious incident occurring.

ATTACHMENT 5: Procedures for the Late Collection of Children

Scenario 1: The service has been notified of the late collection

Where a parent/guardian or authorised nominee has notified the service that they will be late collecting their child, the nominated supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring that the educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times children are in attendance at the service
- contacting parents/guardians or the authorised nominee if the child has not been collected by the agreed time, and informing the Approved Provider of the situation
- following the steps listed in scenario 3 (below) if parents/guardians or the authorised nominee do not arrive to collect the child and cannot be contacted.

Scenario 2: The service has not been notified of the late collection

Where a parent/guardian or authorised nominee is late collecting their child and has not notified the service that they will be late, the nominated supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring that the educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times children are in attendance at the service
- contacting parents/guardians or the authorised nominee to request collection
- informing the Approved Provider of the situation
- following the steps listed in scenario 3 (below) if the parents/guardians or authorised nominee cannot be contacted.

Scenario 3: The child has not been collected and a parent/guardian/authorised nominee is unable to be contacted

Where the parent/guardian or authorised nominee is late collecting their child and is unable to be contacted, the nominated supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring that the educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times children are in attendance at the service
- contacting Child FIRST or the local police if a child has not been collected within a set time period (to be determined by the service)
- notifying DET as soon as is practicable
- informing the Approved Provider of the situation.

Late Collection Fee

A late collection fee may be charged in accordance with the Fees Policy of the service in all of the above scenarios. When charging a late fee, LEVNT EC Services charge a fee of \$20 for the first 15 minutes a parent is late, and \$1 per minute thereafter.

REFERENCES

LEGISLATION & STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au

SOURCES

- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): www.acecqa.gov.au
- Department of Education and Training (DET) Licensed Children's Services, phone 1300 307 415 or email licensed.childrens.services@edumail.vic.gov.au

RELATED POLICIES

- 2.06V Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- 2.08V Dealing with Medical Conditions
- 2.09V Emergency and Evacuation
- 2.11V Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- 2.13V Road Safety and Safe Transport
- 2.14V Supervision of Children
- 2.24V Excursions and Service Events
- 6.01V Enrolment and Orientation
- 6.02V Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations
- 7.02V Privacy and Confidentiality
- 7.03V Fees