



Photography and Video Policy

Quick reference: photography | video recording | digital images | parental consent | child consent | authorisations | service-issued devices | personal devices | child safety | privacy | data security | online safety | inappropriate content | image sharing | secure storage | image deletion | respectful use | child dignity | social media | documentation | authorised access

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

- (1) To set out guidelines for the safe and appropriate use of photography and video
- (2) It aims to protect the safety, privacy, and rights of all children, families and staff members
- (3) This policy helps us to comply with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, which requires our service to have policies and procedures in place for providing a child safe environment, and the safe use of digital technologies and online environments, including specific requirements relating to images and videos of children (s 168(2)(ha))
- (4) It complies with the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*, and aligns with the National Model Code for Taking Images or Videos of Children while Providing Early Childhood Education and Care (National Model Code), the ECEC Code of Ethics, and the Child Safe Standards/National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

SCOPE

- (5) This policy applies to:
 - Staff: the Nominated Supervisor, paid workers, volunteers and work placement students, third parties who carry out work at our service that is relevant to this policy, including contractors, subcontractors, self-employed persons, employees of a labour hire company
 - Children who are in our care, their parents, families and care providers
 - Visitors to our service, including allied health support workers
 - Committee members
- (6) It covers all activities carried out at or by our service that involve photographing or videoing children, including at special events, excursions, travel and transport

- (7) This policy should be read in conjunction with our [Social Media Policy](#), [Technology and Device Use Policy](#), [AI Policy](#) and [CCTV Policy](#)

DEFINITIONS

- (8) The following definitions apply to this policy and related procedures:
- 'Photo/Photograph/Video' means any visual recording of children, either still or moving
 - 'Audio' means a sound recording of children, including voices and other sounds made by children
 - 'Consent' refers to the voluntary and informed agreement to allow something to happen or someone else to do something. It is used interchangeably with authorisation in this policy
 - 'Service-issued devices' are devices provided by our service for professional use, including phones, tablets, cameras, and computers
 - 'Personal devices' are privately owned devices (such as smartphones, tablets, laptops, voice recorders, cameras, and smartwatches) capable of accessing the internet or capturing images, audio and videos. For the purposes of this policy, personal devices also include any devices issued to students by their training provider
 - 'Parents' includes guardians and persons who have parental responsibilities for the child under a decision or order of court
 - 'Staff', unless otherwise indicated, refers to the Nominated Supervisor, paid workers, volunteers, students, and third parties who are covered in the scope of this policy. Note: 'staff', 'employees' and 'workers' etc may have their own, different definitions in legislation covered in this policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Child Safe Environment

- (9) We must have child safe systems in place for the taking, use, storage and destruction of images and videos of children in our care (*National Regulations s 168(2)(ha)(i)*)
- (10) Our practices align with the National Model Code, which sets out how to implement child safe practices for electronic device use in education and care services
- (11) When we are photographing or videoing children, our number one priority is the safety, dignity, and rights of the child. We avoid any action that might cause harm or discomfort
- (12) We always get the informed consent of parents before we photograph or video their child

- (13) If a child is capable of understanding, we will ask their permission before we take a photo or video, and explain to them how we intend to use it. Where a child is very young or developmentally not capable of understanding, we will check for non-verbal signs of consent before taking their photo or video
- (14) Staff will respect a child's right to decline and will never force a child to be photographed or recorded
- (15) We support staff to ensure their use of photography/video is purposeful, supports quality educational practice, and does not interfere with active supervision or child-educator engagement
- (16) We support staff to maintain a culture of child safety, and encourage them to speak up if they see personal or service-issued devices being used inappropriately
- (17) We store photographs and videos of children on secure platforms and take steps to ensure access to them is restricted

Parental Consent/Authorisation

- (18) We must have child safe systems in place for obtaining authorisation from parents to take, use and store images and videos of children in our care (*National Regulations* s 168(2)(ha)(ii))
- (19) We discuss this policy with parents at the time of their child's enrolment
- (20) We get written consent from parents to take, use and share photographs or videos of their child
- (21) Our consent form is specific. We state why the photos or videos are being taken, how they will be used, stored, and shared, and who is authorised to take them
- (22) Parents may choose not to consent to their child being photographed or videoed in any circumstances, or they may choose to give consent for a limited number of situations
- (23) We notify parents in advance of any school photographers, researchers and students on practicum placements who intend to take photographs/videos of their children, and give parents the opportunity to withdraw their consent
- (24) We only engage professional photographers who agree to follow this Photography and Video Policy
- (25) External/third-party professionals (e.g., NDIS providers, allied health workers) who are working with children while they are at our service, must not take photographs or videos of children unless they have the written authorisation of the child's parent, and they are supervised by a staff member while taking the image or recording (note, third parties who are conducting child-related work at our service must comply with this policy and our Technology and Device Use Policy and our Child Safe Code of Conduct)

Refusing Or Withdrawing Consent

- (26) Parents may refuse to authorise our service's taking, use or storage of images or videos of their child

- (27) Parents may withdraw prior authorisation at any time by notifying the Nominated Supervisor in writing
- (28) We maintain a list of children whose parents have withheld consent or given limited consent. Staff are responsible for checking the list and, where applicable:
- Not photographing or videoing these children, and ensuring they are removed from any group photos/videos situations; or
 - Only using and sharing photographs/videos of these children according to their parents' authorisation

Purpose And Use

- (29) Photographs and videos of a child are only taken and used with parental consent, and if they are directly relevant to a child's involvement in our service's activities, including to:
- Document and support children's learning and development
 - Engage families by sharing children's progress and daily activities
 - Communicate events/activities and share relevant information with families and communities
 - Promote/market the service
 - Support educational research and professional development
- (30) Photographs and videos are only used for the purposes we set out in our consent form. Any additional use requires further written consent from parents
- (31) Note, our service may need to take photos, videos or audio recordings of a child for their safety or wellbeing, e.g., to document injuries or if we are instructed to do so by the police/child protection authority. If the relevant authority allows for it, the child's parents have the right to access them

Access And Use

- (32) Only staff who have a clear need to do so as part of their job, and who are authorised by the Nominated Supervisor, can access, use or share the photos/videos we take of children at our service
- (33) Photos and videos must only be used and shared in line with the conditions set out in our consent form. They must not be accessed or shared beyond their intended purpose or context
- (34) We will only share a child's photos or videos publicly - e.g. on social media, on our website, in newsletters, by email, brochures, on digital learning apps – if we have written parental consent
- (35) We will only use children's photos to market or publicise our service, or to support any research projects or study placements, if we have written parental consent

- (36) Staff must also comply with our [Social Media Policy](#) if they are posting photographs or videos on social media platforms
- (37) Photographs/videos used publicly will refer to the child by their first name and surname initial unless parents have authorised the use of the child's full name
- (38) Staff must never download photographs or videos of a child at our service to a personal device or take steps that would allow them to access this type of content from their own personal device
- (39) Note, in some situations, such as where a child is at risk of harm, we may be legally obliged to share photos or videos with the police or another authority

The Use Of Devices For Photography and Video

- (40) Staff (including students and volunteers) must only use service-issued devices to take photographs, videos or audio recordings of children in our care
- (41) Staff (including students and volunteers) and third party professional must not use personal devices (such as cameras, smartphones, tablets, and smartwatches) to take photographs, videos or record audio of children in our care
- (42) Third-party professionals must use a device issued by their business/institution (and not a personal device)
- (43) Staff must not use devices to take photos or videos if doing so jeopardising their capacity to supervise, interact or engage with children
- (44) Service-issued devices are stored securely when they are not in use. Staff are not allowed to take them home unless they have been authorised to do so and the Nominated Supervisor has put into place strict security and monitoring systems for these devices
- (45) The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day use of service-issued devices, and ensuring that photographs and recordings of children are securely managed and stored, including checking authorisations for use remain up-to-date
- (46) Personal electronic devices must be stored securely and not be in the possession of any person at our service while they are providing education and care to children and working directly with children, except in certain limited situations and with the written approval of the Nominated Supervisor (see [Technology and Device Use](#))
- (47) If a personal device is used in an emergency, any images or videos must be transferred as soon as practicable to a service-issued device or platform, and the relevant content must be deleted from the personal device
- (48) Staff must report any accidental or necessary use of a personal device for photography or recording to the Nominated Supervisor immediately
- (49) Taking an unauthorised photograph or video with a personal device of a child in our care is considered a serious breach of this policy and may result in disciplinary action
- (50) Refer to our [Technology and Device Use Policy](#) for more details

Inappropriate Photography And Videos

- (51) Any photographs or videos with inappropriate content is strictly prohibited
- (52) Inappropriate content includes any depictions of a child that be considered exploitative, intrusive, or harmful – for example, where a child is undressed, in distress, in a state of dysregulation or depicted in a manner that could be considered sexualised or exploitative
- (53) Any staff member who captures or shares inappropriate content will be reported to the relevant authority, following our Child Protection Policy
- (54) Photography and videos are not permitted of children engaged in private activities or in areas we designate as ‘no photography’ zones, including bathrooms, nappy change rooms, and areas where there is not a clear line of sight by other staff members
- (55) Staff must make sure that children are clothed and positioned appropriately before they take their photo or video
- (56) Images and videos must be used in a way that is dignified and respectful, and not in a way that is discriminatory, stereotyping or biased

Guidelines For Parents And Families

- (57) Parents and families can take photos and videos of their child at our service, but should not take photos or videos of anyone else’s child unless they have the consent of the child’s parents
- (58) Parents and families should not share any photos or videos that include identifiable characteristics of other children, staff, visitors or families without getting the relevant consent first. This includes sharing images on social media, websites, or any other platform
- (59) For special events that are open to families and the community (e.g., concerts), the Nominated Supervisor will ask parents before the event to be mindful that their children, or other children may be included in other families’ photos or videos
- (60) Note, our service does not take responsibility for the sharing or use of photos or videos that are taken by people other than staff members and other service-authorised photographers

Student Assessments

- (61) Students are not permitted to photograph, video or live stream assessment tasks involving children at our service, unless they:
 - Have prior permission from the Nominated Supervisor
 - Have specific written parental authorisation, and
 - Use service issued devices, not personal devices or devices issued by their training provider
- (62) Direct observation is our preferred method for assessments; however, where this is not possible, the observation may occur remotely via live streaming if the Nominated Supervisor has given prior approval

- (63) Live streaming may only be conducted by the training provider assessor, and not a third party or workplace supervisor
- (64) Live streams must not be recorded, stored or shared
- (65) Photography, filming or live streaming must avoid focussing the camera on children, be directly relevant to the assessment activity, and must never be done while a child is in a state of undress, in distress or in any other inappropriate circumstances

Privacy And Security

- (66) Images, videos or recordings of children, taken for any purpose, must not be stored or retained on any personal devices or personal cloud accounts
- (67) Digital photos and videos of children are stored on secure platforms and/or digital devices that are password protected
- (68) Printed, hard copy photos of children are stored securely, away from public access
- (69) Access to stored photos and videos is limited to authorised staff members only
- (70) We regularly update our systems to ensure they remain secure and protected from unauthorised access
- (71) Staff are not allowed to transfer photographs and recordings to personal devices or unauthorised platforms
- (72) Any sharing of photographs and recordings outside our service is done securely and only with written authorisation from the child's parents
- (73) Staff are trained to follow our privacy and security protocols
- (74) The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for the oversight and control of who has access to photos and videos at our service (see our [Technology and Device Use](#) for information on how technology use is monitored and managed)

Retention And Destruction

- (75) Photos and videos are only kept for as long as necessary to fulfil their intended purpose, unless we need to keep them longer for legal or regulatory reasons
- (76) We may keep photos and videos that have historical value indefinitely
- (77) Photos or videos that relate to a child protection matter will be managed according to our [Child Protection Policy](#)
- (78) When they are no longer needed, photos and videos are securely deleted or destroyed to ensure they cannot be accessed or recovered (e.g., digital photos and videos are either overwritten by data wiping software or we physically destroy storage devices; physical photos are shredded)
- (79) We will agree to requests to delete/destroy images and videos where it is appropriate and lawful to do so

Breaches And Complaints

- (80) Anyone can raise concerns or complaints regarding the handling of photographs, videos, or devices, according to our [Complaint Handling Policy](#)
- (81) Staff must follow our [Child Protection Policy and Procedures](#) if they have concerns for a child's safety or well-being
- (82) Any breaches of this policy, including the improper use of devices, or unauthorised use of photos or videos, are treated seriously
- (83) Depending on the nature of the breach, staff members may be subject to disciplinary action, referred to the police/child protection authority, and/or have their employment terminated

PRINCIPLES

- (84) All practices related to photography/video are conducted with children's safety, wellbeing, privacy and dignity as our number one priority
- (85) We only capture, use, share and store photos/videos according to their intended purpose and with the written consent of parents
- (86) We store photos/videos securely and have systems that prevent them from being accessed or shared improperly, or without authorisation. We only retain photos/videos for as long as is necessary and we destroy/delete them securely
- (87) We comply with all relevant legislation, regulations and standards at all times
- (88) We act in line with our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing, Child Safe Code of Conduct, National Model Code and the ECEC Code of Ethics
- (89) We treat all individuals in photographs/videos with dignity and respect, and recognise that there are cultural differences and sensitivities related to photography
- (90) We give staff the training, resources and support that they need to implement this policy

POLICY COMMUNICATION, TRAINING AND MONITORING

- (91) This policy and related documents can be found in the foyer
- (92) The Nominated Supervisor provide information, training and other resources and support regarding the [Photography and Video Policy](#) and related documents
- (93) All staff (including volunteers and students) are formally inducted. They are given access to, review, understand and formally acknowledge this [Photography and Video Policy](#) and related documents
- (94) The Nominated Supervisor can facilitate a professional development program for each staff member, which covers this policy

- (95) Roles and responsibilities and clearly defined in this policy and in individual position descriptions. They are communicated during staff inductions and in ongoing training
- (96) The Nominated Supervisor monitor and audit staff practices and address non-compliance. Breaches to this policy are taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action against a staff member
- (97) At enrolment, families are given access to our [Photography and Video Policy](#) and related documents
- (98) Families are notified in line with our obligations under the *National Regulations* when changes are made to our policies and procedures

LEGISLATION (OVERVIEW)

Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations

Law	Description
s 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
s 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
Regulations	
s 73	Educational program
s 74	Documenting of child assessments or evaluations for delivery of educational program
s 168(h)	Education and care services must have policies and procedures in relation to providing a child safe environment, including matters relating to the promotion of a culture of child safety and wellbeing within the service
s 168(ha)	Education and care services must have policies and procedures in relation to the safe use of digital technologies and online environments at the service
s 170	Policies and procedures to be followed
s 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
s 177(1)(a)	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by Nominated Supervisor
ss 181,183 - 184	Confidentiality and storage of records

Other applicable laws and regulations

Act / Regulation	Description
<i>Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth)</i>	Provides guidance on how to uphold the principles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child
<i>Privacy Act 1988</i>	Principal act protecting the handling of personal information, including photos and videos

National Quality Standard

Standard	Concept	Description
1.3	Assessment and planning	Educators and co-ordinators take a planned and reflective approach to implementing the program for each child
1.3.1	Assessment and planning cycle	Each child's learning and development is assessed or evaluated as part of an ongoing cycle of observation, analysing learning, documentation, planning, implementation and reflection
1.3.3	Information for families	Families are informed about the program and their child's progress
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected

Standard	Concept	Description
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazards
2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect
4.2	Professionalism	Management, educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical
4.2.2	Professional standards	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child is maintained
6.1	Supportive relationships with families	Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role
6.1.2	Parent views are respected	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing
7.1	Governance	Governance supports the operation of a quality service that is child safe
7.1.2	Management systems	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service that is child safe
7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities	Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision-making and operation of the service

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) V2.0

EYLF Outcome	Key component
3: CHILDREN HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing Children become strong in their physical learning and wellbeing Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Most relevant principles
Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Key Policies	Child Protection Policy Child Safe Code of Conduct Child Safe Risk Management Plan Complaint Handling Policy ECEC Code of Ethics Social Media Policy Technology and Device Use Policy Relationships with Children Policy Orientation for Children Policy Family and Community Partnership Policy Governance and Management Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Enrolment Policy CCTV Policy
Procedures	Roles and responsibilities – Photography and Video (attached) Child Safe Environment Procedures (in Child Safe Environment Policy) Child Protection Procedures (in Child Protection Policy) Complaint Handling Procedures (in Complaint Handling Policy)

Resources Photography and Video Consent Form template (attached) | Quick guide to Photography and Video Policy (attached) | [Active Supervision Guidelines \(ACECQA\)](#)

SOURCES

Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations | National Quality Standard | National Principles for Child Safe Organisations | National Model Code for Taking Images or Videos of Children while Providing Early Childhood Education and Care | Australian Privacy Principles (Privacy Act 1988) | eSafety Commissioner Resources | Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics | ACECQA's NQF Online Safety Guide | ACECQA's NQF Child Safe Culture Guide | Australian Human Rights Commission guidance on children's rights and privacy | Australian Government's Australian Skills Quality Authority - Guidance for Assessing ECEC Students in the Workplace | ACECQA's Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy and Procedure Guidelines

POLICY INFORMATION

Approval	Rachel Black Frame
Review	Reviewed annually and when there are changes that may affect this policy or related procedures. The review will include checks to ensure the document reflects current legislation, continues to be effective, or whether any changes and additional training are required Reviewed: February 2026 Date for next review: January 2027

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Photography and video

Nominated Supervisor / persons in day-to-day charge responsibilities (not limited to)

Ensure our service meets its obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations*, including to take every reasonable precaution to protect children from harm and hazards likely to cause injury and ensure that children in our care are adequately supervised at all times

Ensure that our service's governance, management, operations, policies, plans, (including risk management/action plans), systems, practices and procedures for photography and videos are appropriate in practice, best practice, align with the principles/standards for child safe organisations, the National Model Code and comply with all relevant legislation

Ensure this Photography and Video Policy is in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that is followed (e.g. through clear and accessible communication, and systemised inductions, training and monitoring of all staff – including volunteers, students)

Ensure that staff's use of devices is being monitored and that unauthorised personal devices are not being used for photographing or videoing children

Authorise staff device use and who can take, access and use photos and videos of children. Oversee the day-to-day monitoring of device use, ensuring that staff do not have unauthorised personal devices in their possession and that only service-issued devices are being used to photograph or video children

Ensure that parents are giving informed consent, including by discussing this policy at the time a child is enrolled. Ensure that all consent forms are completed, stored securely and regularly reviewed. Maintain a list of children whose parents have not provided consent or who have provided limited consent, and make sure that educators have access to this list

Notify parents in advance if any professional photographers, researchers, students or anyone else outside to our service will be taking and storing photos/videos

Ensure our systems are secure and kept-up-to date, and that photos/videos are stored in a way that protects them from misuse, interference and loss, and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. Take reasonable steps to destroy or de-identify photos/videos when we no longer need them for purpose they were collected

Ensure that photos/videos are only being taken, used and shared according to their purpose. Get additional written consent for anything that is not covered in the consent form

Ensure our IT systems secure and up-to-date. Store photos/videos in a way that protects them from misuse, interference and loss, and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. Take reasonable steps to destroy or de-identify photos/videos when we no longer need them

Ensure this policy and related documents are reviewed regularly, and notify families of reviews and changes according to legislation and our policies and procedures

Educator / other staff responsibilities (not limited to)

Follow this Photography and Video Policy and other related policies and procedures

Only use service-issued devices (not personal devices) to take photographs or videos of children

Do not keep personal devices in your possession while caring for/educating children at our service

Ensure that children who do not have parental consent are excluded from any individual or group photos/videos

Only share photos/videos taken by our service (including online, on social media, on digital learning apps, or directly with families) if you have been authorised to do so by the Nominated Supervisor. Only share photos/videos according to the specific written consent we have been granted by children's parents. Always make sure you have consent from other staff members, families or visitors before sharing any photos/videos of them

Ensure that all photos/videos are appropriate and maintain the privacy and dignity of the children, staff members, families and visitors at our services

Report any breaches or concerns regarding photography/videos/devices to the Nominated Supervisor. Follow our [Child Protection Policy](#) if there are any concerns about harm or risk of harm to a child and report to the relevant authority in line with our procedures and obligations

Contribute to policy and procedure reviews, risk assessments and plans

Families responsibilities (not limited to)

Follow the relevant sections of our [Photography and Video Policy](#)

Complete our photography and video consent form at the time of your child's enrolment and keep it updated if anything changes

You need consent to take and use photos/videos of other people at the service, including children and families other than your own, staff members and visitors. If you don't have the consent of a child's parents, or the consent of an adult, only photograph/video your own child at our service

Refrain from sharing photos/videos (e.g., on social media) if they include identifiable characteristics of another child or adult at our service, unless you have the relevant consent

Notify our service in writing if you wish to withdraw consent for photographing/videoing your child

Raise any concerns or complaints regarding photography/videos/devices according to our [Complaint Handling Policy and Procedure](#)

RESOURCE – Quick Guide To Photography And Video Policy For Families

How We Use Photos And Videos At Our Service

Your child's safety, privacy and dignity are our top priority

When and why we take photos/videos

We may take photos, videos or audio of your child to:

- Document their learning and development
- Share daily experiences with you
- Promote the service (e.g. newsletters, displays, marketing)
- Support educator training or child development programs

We only do this with your written consent

What we never do

- We never take, use or share photos or videos without permission
- We never use personal phones or devices to capture images or videos of children
- We never take photos or videos in private areas (e.g. bathrooms or nappy change rooms)

How we keep photos/videos safe

- All photos/videos are stored securely and can only be accessed by authorised staff
- We do not allow staff to take or store images on their personal devices
- When photos/videos are no longer needed, we delete them securely

Your child's rights

- We check in with your child and respect if they say "no" to a photo or video
- We make sure photos show children in a respectful and appropriate way

Your rights as a parent

- You can say "yes" or "no" to different types of photo/video use
- You can change or withdraw your consent at any time
- You can ask us to delete an image or video of your child (where legally appropriate)

Other families and visitors

- Families are welcome to photograph their child during events
- Please don't take or share photos of other children unless you have their parents' permission
- Please don't take or share photos of staff or other adults at our service unless you have their permission

Want to know more?

Ask us for a copy of our [Photography and Video Policy](#) or speak to the Nominated Supervisor at any time.