

## Early Learning

# Delivery and Collection of Children Policy

## Policy Statement

Uniting Early Learning is committed to:

- Ensuring the safe and positive delivery and collection of children being educated and cared for at the service, family day care residence/venue.
- Meeting its duty of care obligations under the law.
- Ensuring children are transitioned into and out of the program in an inclusive and supportive manner that promotes family engagement.
- The documentation and maintenance of accurate children's attendance records.
- Recouping all additional costs incurred due to the late collection of a child, refer Fee Policy

## Executive Summary

Child safety and comfort are the prime considerations when implementing delivery and collection procedures and Uniting will ensure that systems and processes established will consider the level of potential risk and associated responsibilities. This will include the provision of information to families regarding these procedures prior to their child's commencement at the service.

Processes and protocols exist to support families being able to complete daily attendance records and authorise nominee/s to collect their child in their absence. Families are responsible for the prompt and accurate communication to the service of any changes to the delivery and collection arrangements of their child.

Educators will regularly monitor children in attendance and ratios are maintained at all times. Adequate supervision of children is a fundamental strategy to ensure safe and positive arrival and departure times. Educators are required to document and maintain accurate attendance records for each child. Educators are responsible for not releasing children to an unauthorised person.

Arrival and departure times are an opportunity for educators to strengthen relationships with families and connect with the home context. A sense of belonging will be influenced by a child's daily experiences of arrival and departure from a service. To ensure a positive transition, consistency in procedures that result in individual responses and engage children to actively participate are essential. Educators will use intention to engage and settle children at these times.

## Current Environmental Context

A duty of care is a common law obligation for all educators and exists at all times a child is on the service's premises, family day care residence/venue and even when a child's parent or guardian may be present. Uniting acknowledges it is the parent's right to nominate a person to sign out and collect the child from the service and therefore do not specify a minimum age limit for an authorised nominee. If the service's staff are concerned about the responsibility of this person to collect the child and supervise them adequately as they leave the premises, then the staff, at this time must arrange a discussion with the parents to determine a satisfactory procedure for all.

<b>Attachment 4a:</b>	Responsibilities relating to Delivery and Collection of Children policy
<b>Attachment 4b:</b>	Authorisation procedures
<b>Attachment 4c:</b>	Procedures to ensure the safe collection of children
<b>Attachment 4d:</b>	Procedures for the late collection of children
<b>Form 4.1:</b>	<a href="#">Authorisation Form</a>

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## Reference/Sources

- Child Safety Policy
- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy
- Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy
- Emergency and Evacuation Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Excursions, Regular Outing and Service Events Policy
- Fee Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Privacy Policy
- [Road Safety & Safe Travel \(Children\) Policy](#)
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Children's Services amendment Act 2019
- Children's Services Regulations 2020
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 165,167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulation 99, 158, 159, 168, 176
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
- Tasmanian Licensing Standards for Centre Based Child Care 2014: Standard 15.4 (c)

This policy is shared with the whole service community with opportunities to provide feedback/input

## Authorisation

This policy was adopted by Uniting Early Learning on 21 December 2022

## Review

This policy is to be reviewed by: 21 December 2023

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## Attachment 4a - Responsibilities relating to the Delivery and Collection of Children Policy

### Approved Provider

- Provide an attendance record ([refer to Glossary](#)) that meets legislative requirements and is signed by the parent or authorised nominee on delivery and collection of their child from the service every day
- Ensure authorisation procedures are in place for excursions, regular outings and other service events and ensure a child is not taken outside the service premises, family day care residence/venue without written authorisation of a parent or authorised nominee
- Ensure there are procedures in place when a child is given into the care of another person, such as for a medical or other emergency
- Ensure there are procedures in place when a parent or authorised nominee advises the service that a person not listed on their child's enrolment form will be collecting their child (refer to Attachment 4b)
- Ensure parents 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 (refer to Attachment 4b)
- Ensure procedures are in place if an inappropriate person (refer to Glossary) attempts to collect a child from the service (refer to Attachment 4c)
- Ensure procedures are in place for the care of a child who has not been collected from the service on time (refer to Attachment 4d)
- Ensure a transport agreement is in place, where required, between all relevant parties (e.g. early learning service, family day care educator, bus company, school, parent) where children travel to and/or from the service by a transport vehicle. For school buses in Victoria, this agreement should outline the responsibilities of each party including those contained in the [School Bus Program Policy and Procedures](#) (Department of Education and Training, January 2016)
- Ensure that parents complete and sign a form notifying the service or family day care educator that the child will be travelling to the service or from the service by a transport vehicle. This form is to be uploaded into the child's enrolment record in Xap or Harmony
- Ensure that educators follow procedures when children travel to and from the service by a transport vehicle. (refer to [Road Safety & Safe Travel \(Children\) Policy](#))
- Ensure the transport vehicle, where relevant, is regularly maintained and undergoes safety checks, including child restraints
- Ensure that procedures, including incident reporting procedures, are followed in the event of a vehicle crash, transport-related injury or missing child (refer to Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy)
- Notify Uniting and the parents as soon as practicable, and the regulatory authority in writing within 12 hours, in the event of a serious incident (refer to Glossary), including when a child has left the service unattended by an adult or with an unauthorised person
- Provide parents with information regarding procedures for delivery and collection of children prior to their child's commencement at the service, including information about the transport vehicle, where relevant
- Follow the procedures for late collection of children (refer to Attachment 4c)
- Organise regular vehicle and tyre maintenance/servicing and child restraint check certificates, where relevant
- Ensure that early childhood teachers; educators, staff and parents/guardians comply with the service's Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy

### Responsible Person

- Ensure parents have completed the authorised nominee (refer to Glossary) section of their child's enrolment form, and that the form is signed and dated, as per Enrolment and Orientation Policy

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- Ensure an attendance record (refer to Glossary) that meets legislative requirements is completed by the parent or authorised nominee, detailing the child’s arrival and departure from the service and their authorisation
- Ensure a child does not leave the service except with a parent, authorised nominee, educator or with the written authorisation of one of these (refer to Form 10.) or in the case of a medical emergency or an excursion
- Ensure authorisation procedures are in place for excursions, regular outings and other service events and ensure a child is not taken outside the service premises, family day care residence/venue without written authorisation of a parent or authorised nominee
- Ensure parents 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 (refer to Attachment 4b)
- Ensure a written record of all visitors including time of arrival and departure and contact details is maintained at the service, family day care residence/venue
- Ensure that 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
- Ensure a transport agreement is in place, where required, between all relevant parties (e.g. Early learning service, family day care educator, bus company, school and parent) where children travel to and/or from the service by a transport vehicle. In Victoria, this agreement should outline the responsibilities of each party including those contained in the School Bus Program Policy and Procedures (Victorian Department of Education and Training January 2016)
- Ensure that parents complete and sign a form notifying the service or family day care educator that the child will be travelling to the service or from the service by a transport vehicle. This form is to be kept with the child’s enrolment record in Xap or Harmony
- Ensure that educators follow procedures when children travel to and from the service by a transport vehicle. (Refer to Road Safety & Safe Travel (Children) Policy)
- Ensure the transport vehicle including child restraints, where relevant, are regularly maintained and undergo safety checks
- Ensure that procedures, including incident reporting procedures, are followed in the event of a vehicle crash, transport-related injury or missing child (refer to Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy)
- Notify Uniting and the parents as soon as practicable, and Regulatory Authorities in writing within 12 hours, in the event of a serious incident (refer to Glossary), including when a child has left the service unattended by an adult or with an unauthorised person
- Provide parents with information regarding procedures for delivery and collection of children prior to their child’s commencement at the service, including information about the transport vehicle, where relevant
- Ensure the Early Learning services/ Family Day Care Educators House entry/exit doors and gates are kept closed during program hours
- Ensure any emergency medication required for a child is available, when the child is traveling to and from the service
- Follow authorisation procedures (refer to Attachment 4b) in the event that a parent or authorised nominee (refer to Glossary) contacts the service to advise that a person not listed on their child’s enrolment form will be collecting their child
- Follow the procedures for late collection of children (refer to Attachment 4c)
- Develop and communicate with the service staff safety procedures for the mass arrival and departure of children from the service (each region to ensure a risk minimization plan)
- Do not allow a child to depart the service with a person who is not the parent or authorised nominee (refer to Glossary), or where there is no written authorisation of one of these (unless it is unsafe to do so)
- Inform the Approved Provider as soon as is practicable, but within 12 hours, if a child has left the service unattended by an adult or with an unauthorised person
- Display an up-to-date list of the telephone numbers of the Approved Provider, Regulatory Authority, Child FIRST, DFFH Child Protection Service and the local police station

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- Follow procedures when children travel to and from the service by school or service bus (refer to Road Safety & Safe Travel (Children) Policy)
- Follow procedures, including incident reporting procedures, in the event of a vehicle crash, transport-related injury or missing child including notifying the Responsible person and Approved Provider as soon as possible after the event
- Ensure that early childhood teachers; educators, staff and parents/guardians comply with the service's Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy.

## Educator

- Ensure that parents and children are acknowledged at arrival and departure times and opportunities for sharing information are provided
- Ensure a written record of all visitors including time of arrival and departure and contact details is maintained at the service, family day care residence/venue
- Ensure that 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
- Ensure that educators follow procedures when children travel to and from the service by school or service bus (refer to Road Safety & Safe Travel (Children) Policy)
- Ensure that procedures, including incident reporting procedures, are followed in the event of a vehicle crash, transport-related injury or missing child (refer to Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy)
- Follow authorisation procedures (refer to Attachment 4b) in the event that a parent or authorised nominee (refer to Glossary) contacts the service to advise that a person not listed on their child's enrolment form will be collecting their child
- Ensure the attendance record is signed by the parent, authorised nominee, Responsible Person or educator, detailing the child's time of arrival and departure from the service
- Ensure the parent or authorized person signs the child in and out of care when the family day care educator collects or drops off the child to their home
- Implement the safety procedures for the mass arrival and departure of children from the service
- Do not allow a child to depart the service with a person who is not the parent or authorised nominee (refer to Glossary), or where there is no written authorisation of one of these (unless it is unsafe to do so)
- Inform the Approved Provider as soon as is practicable, but within 12 hours, if a child has left the service unattended by an adult or with an unauthorised person
- Maintain educator-to-child ratios at all times children are in attendance at the service, including when children are collected late from the service
- Ensure the early learning services/ family day care educators premises entry/exit doors and gates are kept closed during program hours
- Display an up-to-date list of the telephone numbers of the Approved Provider, Regulatory Authority, Child FIRST, DFFH Child Protection Service and the local police station
- Follow procedures when children travel to and from the service by school or service bus (refer to Road Safety & Safe Travel (Children) Policy)
- Ensure the transport vehicle including child restraints, where relevant, are regularly maintained and undergo safety checks
- Follow procedures, including incident reporting procedures, in the event of a vehicle crash, transport-related injury or missing child including notifying the Responsible person and Approved Provider as soon as possible after the event (refer to the notifiable incident flowchart procedures)
- Ensure that early childhood teachers; educators, staff and parents/guardians comply with the service's Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy.

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## Parents

- Ensure the early learning services/ family day care Educators premises entry/exit doors and gates are kept closed during program hours
- Complete and sign the authorised nominee section of the child's enrolment form before the child attends the service
- Promptly sign and date authorisation forms for excursions and where relevant for travel by school bus or service bus
- Sign the attendance record as their child arrives at and departs from the service
- Ensure educators have been informed of their child's arrival and collection on a daily basis
- Collect their child on time at the end of each session/ day
- Alert educators if they are likely to be late collecting their child
- Pay a late-collection fee if required by the service's *Fee Policy*
- Provide written authorisation where children require medication to be administered by educators/staff, and sign and date it for inclusion in the child's medication record (refer to *Glossary*)
- Supervise their own child before signing them into the program and after they have signed them out of the program
- Supervise other children in their care, including siblings, while attending or assisting at the service
- Obtain permission from the coordinating school for their child to travel by school bus and organise this travel
- Transport their child to and from designated bus stop if using the school bus and take responsibility for the child's safety while waiting for the bus
- Negotiate collection/delivery times for their child directly with the service if attending before school or after school care programs
- Inform the service immediately of any change to attendance at before or after school care or travel arrangements (e.g.child's absence due to illness etc.)
- Communicate any issues or concerns relating to a child's safety or wellbeing to the Responsible person.
- Ensure any emergency medication required for a child is available, when the child is traveling to and from the service
- Comply with the service's *Road Safety Policy – Transportation as passenger, cyclists & Pedestrians*

**Note:** Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

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## Attachment 4b - Authorisation procedures

These procedures are to be followed when a child is collected by an unauthorised person, including where a parent or authorised nominee ([refer to Glossary](#)) telephones the service to notify that such a person will be collecting their child.

### The Responsible person will:

1. Request that the parent or authorised nominee, enter the authorisation into XAP/Harmony (or email) the authorisation, detailing the name, address and telephone number of the person who will be collecting the child and advising the person to provide photo identification at time of collection.
2. Accept a verbal authorisation if it is not possible for the parent or authorised nominee to provide authorisation via email, provided the following procedure is followed:
  - 2.1 All details of the person collecting the child, including the name, address and telephone number of the person must be obtained
  - 2.2 Two educators take the verbal authorisation message (Family Day Care & Out of School Care services are exempt from this requirement)
  - 2.3 The verbal authorisation is documented and stored with the child's enrolment details in Xap or Harmony
  - 2.4 Photo identification is obtained to confirm the person's identity on arrival at the service
  - 2.5 Ensure that parents or authorised nominees follow up a verbal authorisation by completing an Authorisation Form (Form 4.1.) when next at the service for one off authorisations, or by adding details of the new authorised nominee in Xap or Harmony
3. Ensure that or email authorisation is stored with the child's enrolment record
4. Ensure the attendance record is completed prior to child leaving the service
5. Refuse to release a child where authorisation is not/cannot be provided by the parent or authorised nominee and when photo identification is not provided
6. Contact police if the safety of child/children or service staff is threatened
7. Implement late collection procedures (refer to Attachment 4d) if required
8. Notify the Approved Provider in the event that written authorisation is not provided, for further follow-up

## Attachment 4c - 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 ([refer to Glossary](#))

Where an educator believes that the parent or authorised nominee (refer to Glossary) may pose a risk to the safety, health or wellbeing to a child being educated and cared for by the service, on collection of their child, the educator will:

1. Engage with the person collecting the child of their concerns and suggest contacting an alternative authorised nominee to collect the child
2. Consult with the Responsible Person or the Approved Provider/, if possible
3. If the Responsible Person or the Approved Provider fears for the safety of the child, all children in attendance, themselves, or other service staff at any time, contact the police immediately
4. Complete an incident report in the RiskMan Portal and file with the child's enrolment details in Xap or Harmony
5. Inform the Approved Provider as soon as is practicable, and at least within 12 hours of the incident
6. Inform the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of a serious incident occurring ([refer to Glossary](#))

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## Attachment 4d - Procedures for the late collection of children

Where the parent or authorised nominee ([refer to Glossary](#)) is late collecting their child and has not notified the service, the responsible person is required to:

1. Ensure at least 2 educators (one with a minimum Diploma level qualification), remain on the premises with the child until collected (Family Day Care & Out of School Care services are exempt from this requirement)
2. Contact the parents or the authorised nominee to request collection, at service closure time and/or at 15-minute intervals
3. Continue attempts to contact parents and authorised persons if unreachable, and document contact attempts, including time, name and telephone number of person
4. After 30 minutes, and all reasonable attempts have been made to contact authorised persons to collect child without success, inform the Early Learning Coordinator or Area Manager/Approved Provider

### Advice and Referral

1. Call the Police and request support. If the child is known to Child Protection, call DFFH Child Protection Services on 131 278 or contact the child's case worker. Follow advice provided by [DFFH Child protection](#)
2. Complete and submit an incident report in RiskMan - Details to include: the date and times calls were made to the parent and/or authorised nominee. Name of Program Manager/Area Manger/Approved Provider and date and time/s of calls. The date and times calls were made to the Police or Child Protection, include the person's name, title and contact details.
3. [Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice](#) and Referral Line 1800 000 123- (Tasmania)
4. Document the late occurrence.
5. Determine if a late collection fee is to be charged ([refer to Fee Policy](#))

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