

Warradale Community Children's Centre acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land we live on today and we pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander People past, present and emerging.



Children's Belongings Policy

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.

Aim

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

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 educators 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 stimulating and challenging toys and resources for all children to play with and are in numerous quantities, catering to their interests.
- During exceptional program circumstances, the children may (on occasion) be able to bring with them personal belongings, this may include school holiday programs, news etc. News is a great way to encourage children to talk during group time about their special toy or personal belonging. This practice encourages children's social development, enables children to vocalise thoughts, fears, and feelings, broaden the cultural and social

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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.

- We will provide appropriate storage for lost property that will be always available to children and families.
- We will communicate to the parents through Storypark, if we find the child's belonging.
- Any grievances or concerns related to lost damaged or stolen property of the children will be managed in accordance with the grievance and complaints 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 care 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 the Centre. For example: those incorporating , guns, holsters, knives, or swords. Such clothing could encourage violent play and may present a danger to the child and others within our childcare environment. Educators will support a child's interest by scaffolding, to support and extend a child's play in ways that promote learning. By redirecting play to incorporate educational elements, they help children build on their existing interests while also introducing new concepts.
- The staff and educators will take as much care as possible in ensuring that clothing; toys, books and puzzles etc. are returned to their correct family. The labelling of all items can help us achieve this. However, we must make it clear that the Centre is not responsible for damaged, lost, or stolen items. If families, choose to leave belongings in the Centre during the day it is completely at their own risk.
- We will actively encourage children to care for their belongings by:
 - Reminding children appropriately when belongings need to be placed in storage.
 - 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 the Centre.

Families will

- Be responsible for providing the child with appropriate belongings and property required for active participation at the Centre. This property may include (but is not limited to):
 - Enclosed footwear
 - Weather appropriate clothing
 - Wide brim hat

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- Suitable School bag (backpack)
- Ensure all personal property and belongings will be clearly named or labelled.

Comfort Toys

We recommend children bring a security blankets/items that soothes them. This may include dummy, bottle, soft toy, books or blanket etc.

Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
 ECA Code of Ethics.
 Guide to the National Quality Standard.
 Revised National Quality Standards

Record of Policy Adoption and Amendment:

Version	Date	Details	Author	Next Review Date
1.0	15/5/18	Policy developed	Trish Cook	15/5/21
1.1	15/5/21		Lori Hay	1/5/2023
1.2	1/5/23	Storypark update added	Poornima Radhakrishnan	31/12/2024
1.3	Sept 2024	Removed cape Added scaffold to support child's interest	Lori Hay	Sept 2025