

Children's Belonging's Policy



This policy clarifies responsibilities for children's property when brought with them to the Farmhouse Montessori School- Nth Balgowlah Campus as well as the Nth Head Primary School Campus. We acknowledge that children will bring to the School 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.

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.
- 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 verbalise thoughts, fears and feelings, broaden the 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.

- 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 and complaints procedure.
- We will take as much care as possible in ensuring that personal belongings are returned to the correct family.
- In accordance with Montessori philosophy we 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
- At the Farmhouse Montessori School, we strongly promote a philosophy of peace. In keeping with that, our students are not permitted to bring weaponry of any kind in any form. Bags or clothing worn or brought to school should not have superheroes or other aggressive characters depicted on them. In keeping with the Montessori philosophy of the Absorbent Mind, we would also prefer if other commercial characters such as Disney or Nickelodeon personalities did not feature on students' clothing and bags. Young children have trouble discerning fantasy from reality, and we like to promote a sense of reality on school grounds.
- 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 School is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items. If families choose to leave belongings in the School 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.
 - 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 Service.

FAMILIES WILL

- Be responsible for providing the child with appropriate belongings and property required for active participation in the School. This property may include (but is not limited to):
 - Enclosed footwear
 - Weather appropriate clothing
 - Wide brim hat
 - Suitable School bag (backpack)
 - Appropriate food and lunch box and water bottle
 - Sport Wear (Nth Head only)
 - Stationery Items (Nth Head only)
- Ensure all personal property and belongings are clearly named or labelled.

QA 2 Children's Belonging's Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. • Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations • ECA Code of Ethics. • Guide to the National Quality Standard. • Revised National Quality Standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment Policy • Orientation of New Families Policy • Respect for children
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Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
October 2017	Updated the references to comply with revised National Quality Standard	March 2018
September 2018	Minor grammatical change made and new school logo added	September 2019