



Oakbank Kindergarten

Walking Children to Genius Childcare Policy

Oakbank Kindergarten supports families who access services provided by the Oakbank Kindergarten and Genius Childcare (GC) by:

- Offering quality preschool education to families also seeking long day care services at the GC
- Ensuring safe movement of staff and students between both sites. Children are walked to Kindergarten by GC staff in the morning and children are returned by kindergarten staff (plus an extra GC staff if required) in the afternoon
- Providing appropriate child / staff ratio and due care for individual needs of the children when moving between Kindergarten and GC.
- Providing parents that use both services with this policy on enrolment

PROCEDURES

- Parental written permission must be obtained before a child can transit between sites. NB. Permission may be obtained through the initial enrolment package as part of the attachment to the enrolment form. This form will include parent permission for transition visits in Term 4 prior to enrolment year.
- At least 1 qualified staff member must take children across the road with other adult support as necessary.
- Staff / Child ratio when crossing the road must not exceed more than 1 Staff to 4 children. GC to be contacted prior to the end of the day to provide further staff if this child ratio exceeds Kindergarten staff numbers on site.
- Staff to walk in the middle with children either side – all to hold hands throughout the return to GC.
- A qualified teacher is to remain at the Kindergarten until all non-GC children are collected at the end of session, ratio not to exceed 1 teacher to 11 children.
- In the event that more than one staff member is involved in transition to GC leaving no staff on site, office door is to be locked.
- All children and staff will wear high viz vests. Hats will not be worn for crossing safety in case of wind. Sunscreen will be applied if required, prior to leaving when the rating is 3 or above at this time. Lightweight raincoats are provided by the kindergarten in wet weather.
- Any Notes for parents will be placed in children's bags by staff.
- Route: Staff and children cross Onkaparinga Valley Road using the defined safety kerb extensions, immediately adjacent to the community playground gate. Staff to walk children directly across the road in a collective group together in one movement, once there is clear path with no traffic.
- All staff must know this policy and follow the above procedures to ensure children's safety and staff duty of care.
- Staff accompanying children must take a mobile phone.
- Educators will update the risk assessment and review this policy when changes occur.

DIRECTOR / TEACHER RESPONSIBLITIY

- To talk to and model to the children how to cross a road safely.
- Determine the best time to walk the children back to GC noting in particular weather, traffic conditions, any environmental conditions, and other non-GC children waiting for collection from the site.
- Provide Oakbank Kindergarten children and educators with high viz vests.
- Staff to be aware of the weight of children's bags and needs of individual children for priority of assistance and proximity to staff when walking
- Ensure children are hands free to enable holding hands of another person, adult or child.

Policy endorsed term 1 2009

Reviewed 3/1/12, January 2013, July 2015, January 2017, Sept 2018, Sept 21

Next Review September 2023

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

To support your child's safety whilst crossing Onkaparinga Valley Road at the defined safety crossing area:

- Reinforce and practice how to cross a road safely when walking with your child.
- Consider the design of the child's back pack i.e. ensure it can be carried on his / her back to enable hand holding.
- To minimise the amount carried by the child when crossing busy roads. (i.e. the total weight of the bag including full water bottles and spare clothes).
- Do not send an umbrella as this is very difficult for children to manage.
- Ensure sensible footwear for safety and ease of movement. (e.g. rubber boots, crocs, thongs, sandals without a strap/ buckle are not suitable)