

MONTHLY FAMILY FACTSHEET DECEMBER 2021

Website of the Month – www.kidsafe.com.au

“Over 150 Australian children die each year from preventable injuries, a further 68,000 are hospitalised. Kidsafe exists to prevent these tragedies.” (Kidsafe Nov 2021)

The team at Kidsoft provide the latest news, information on safety campaigns and educational resources for families and organisations to educate those caring for children about dangers in and around the home and provide factsheets with tips on how to prevent injuries.



Early Learning and Childhood Development

STEAM

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics. When these curriculum areas are integrated, they provide experiences for children to explore, invent, be creative, problem-solve, collaborate, estimate, predict and communicate. As educators we are constantly hearing that we are preparing children for jobs that haven't even been created yet. This concept is mind-blowing!

What we do know is that when children are provided with opportunities to engage in real-life learning experiences, they are more engaged, and more likely to benefit long-term. STEAM is all about doing, constructing, using open-ended resources and creating with simple items like pipe-cleaners, paddle pop sticks, rocks and recycled materials. We further support children's development through our conversations and questions about the how and why of their creations. STEAM activities allow children to predict outcomes and test theories, they are exploring never-ending possibilities that support their future exploration into worlds yet discovered.

Want to explore STEAM activities at home?

Visit: <https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/5-fun-stem-crafts-for-kids/> for 23 fun STEAM activities for children.

Policies and Practices

Service Philosophy

Under the National Quality Framework, each service is required to have a service philosophy. Our philosophy is more than a statement, it explains the why behind our work with children, families, community and each other. It explains our beliefs, values and understanding of child development and is reflected upon in the development of our learning programs and environments.

Children are at the heart of everything we do.

We believe our philosophy should reflect a shared vision and as such we seek your input into this important document.

The review of our policy allows us to stop and reflect about what we do and why we do it! You will find a copy of our philosophy displayed at our service. If you would like a copy, please let us know, we would love your feedback!

National Quality Framework Topics

Reflection

For more information visit



To ensure we continue to provide the very best care for each child, our team engage in regular reflection. Reflection includes looking at why something happened a particular way and then making decisions about what to do next. Reflection occurs all the time, our team may reflect "in action" and make an immediate modification, or they may reflect "on action" afterwards, this may include input from other members of the team, children, and families. We reflect across all 7 quality areas and seek your input to drive continuous improvement and quality outcomes. For example, we reflect on health and safety, supervision, learning environments and resourcing, staffing arrangements, transitions, rhythms and routines, policies and procedures, our interaction with community, orientations and inductions and family participation.

Ultimately what we aim to achieve is to pull apart experiences and critically examine each aspect, this information is then used to guide our decisions about what should be repeated, extended, or modified.

“When educators strive to assess and understand the impact of their practice, they are engaging in reflective practice” (ACECQA)

Safety – Children Unattended in Cars

Leaving children unattended and unsupervised in a vehicle is extremely unsafe. Risks to children left unattended in cars can include overheating, burns, risk of car theft and risk of children or others engaging the vehicle when unsupervised. It is also illegal to leave a child under 12 unattended for an unreasonable time without making reasonable provision for the supervision and care of the child.

According to Kidsafe (Nov 2021) *“Across Australia over 5,000 children are left in cars every year. In New South Wales 2,200 children were rescued from cars in 2013 alone, and in one of the country's hottest states, Queensland, a staggering 3 to 5 cases are reported every day. Tragically, for some children rescue comes all too late.”*

To prove just how hot the sun can make a parked car, Kidsafe asked award-winning chef, Matt Moran to literally cook a meal in one – a must watch video: The unconventional oven <https://kidsafe.com.au/the-unconventional-oven/>

You can also read more about the dangers of leaving children unattended in cars by visiting [Kidsafe - kids in cars](#)

PLEASE STOP AND CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES BEFORE LEAVING YOUR CHILD UNATTENDED IN A VEHICLE!

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