

Safe arrival of children

New requirements for the safe arrival of children travelling between services

There is a heightened risk to the safety of children during times of transition between services.

In October 2023 amendments to the Education and Care Services National Regulations to better support safe transport were implemented as part of the National Quality Framework Review. Regulations [102AA](#), [102AAB](#) and [102AAC](#) were also introduced to ensure the safe arrival of children at ECEC services.

Under these new regulations, documentation to guide your service's safe arrival of children is now required for any situation where children travel between services¹. The required documentation includes policies, procedures and a risk assessment.

Note: for the purpose of these requirements, an **education or early childhood service** includes a school, an education and care service, a children's service or any other service which provides education or care to children (regulation 102AA).

If your service does not have children travelling between one of the listed service types and your service, this regulation may not apply, however best practice is to consider how all children arrive at your service and implement appropriate strategies for what to do when a child does not arrive.

Ask yourself...

- Have you reflected on how children and families arrive to your service, the risks and your processes to support children's safe arrival? How has this informed your policies and practice?
- If you currently do not have any instances of children travelling between services, have you reflected on how you will identify changes that may occur?
- Does your induction process support educator's knowledge of roles and responsibilities in supporting the safe arrival of children? Does the process cover the induction of casual staff?
- How do you check educators' knowledge of your safe arrival policies and procedures? Developing routine audit processes for each part of the safe arrival process supports effective risk management.
- Have you considered regularly assessing policy implementation in practice? More information

¹ See blue text box above for definition of service types for the purpose of the new regulation 102AA.

ACECQA has developed a [safe arrival of children](#) information sheet and a [safe arrival of children Policy guidelines resource](#). It is always advisable to access resources such as these through the web locations to ensure you are receiving the most up to date version.

For transportation situations outside of the safe arrival of children such as regular outings and excursions, resources can be found on the [NSW Department of Education website](#).