

Y Whittlesea Child Lifting Policy

1. Purpose

Y Whittlesea is committed to ensuring the **safety and wellbeing** of all children and staff by establishing clear guidelines for lifting children in our early learning settings. This policy aims to prevent injury, promote children's independence, and support safe manual handling practices across our services.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all educators, staff, students, and volunteers within Y Whittlesea's Early Years services, including Early Learning Centres, Kindergartens, and Holiday Programs.

3. Policy Statement

Y Whittlesea recognises the importance of:

- Fostering children's independence by encouraging their physical development and self-help skills
- Protecting staff from injury through safe lifting practices and risk assessments
- Supporting children's wellbeing, dignity, and individual needs in all care routines
- Child lifting will be carried out in a way that is developmentally appropriate for children and ergonomically safe for staff. Where lifting is required, educators must follow the **Child Lifting Procedure** to ensure safe, consistent, and supportive practices.

4. Training and Support

All staff will receive training on safe lifting techniques as part of ongoing professional development to implement this policy effectively.

5. Special Considerations

For children with mobility challenges or special needs, individualised care plans will be developed in consultation with families, supervisors, and healthcare professionals to ensure their unique needs are met safely and inclusively.

6. Responsibilities

Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor

- Ensure policy implementation, staff training, and review.

Educators and Staff

- Follow the Child Lifting Policy and Procedure at all times and encourage children's independence safely.

Families

- Share relevant information about children's mobility needs and collaborate in developing individualised care plans if required.

7. Related Documents and Links

- Child Lifting Procedure
- Manual Handling Training Materials
- WHS Safe Work Procedures
- ACECQA Safe Environments Guidelines

8. Legislative and Industry Requirements: [Link](#) to Legislative Compliance Register

9. Consequences of breaching this policy: All elements of this policy must be adhered to, and any breach will be dealt with in accordance with the [YMCA Whittlesea Disciplinary and Termination Policy](#).

10. Policy owner: The GM Early Years is responsible for keeping this policy current - including making amendments as required, and regular reviews as scheduled.

11. Document Control: Review of this policy will be undertaken every two years, or prior as required by law, in consultation with appropriate Y People.

Version:	Description of Amendment	Amended by	Date	Release Date
4.0	Separated Policy & Procedures	MRowse	July 2025	July 2025
3.0	Updated	GZ	5/5/17	5/5/17
2.0	Updated	GZ	12/3/16	12/3/16
1.0	Creation of Policy		10/4/14	10/4/14