



## 4.35 Beekeeping

### Written By

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### Introduction

Bermagui Preschool has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that all children are safe in their care. The protection of children, one of the most vulnerable groups in society, is a shared community responsibility and involves ensuring that all children are safe, their needs are met and the possibility of child abuse is minimised.

This policy will provide a clear set of guidelines to ensure all children attending Bermagui Preschool are provided with a safe environment and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children attending the service. Risk minimisation strategies, supported by clear procedures for specific areas of child safety will help ensure the environment and practices at Bermagui Preschool are child safe.

### Strategies

#### Minimise the Risk

- Risk assessment (refer to Bee Keeping Risk Assessment for further details)
- Confirm there is No Allergy. If there is refer to emergency plan.
- The bee hives are positioned 3 metres inside the property.
- A beehive enclosure fence is maintained 2m from hive.
- Only farm manager and experienced bee keepers permitted within 2m of the hive.
- Children not to approach within 5m of the hive without staff member.
- Families, children, staff, volunteers and neighbours to be instructed on how to behave around honey bees (e.g. don't swat at them).
- Inform families, children, staff, volunteers and neighbours about our hives to avoid any misunderstandings.
- Remember that bees are more protective when there is more honey. Certain times of year might be off-limits for children, like late summer.
- Wear protective gear to prevent stings when working with bees.
- Prepare children, staff and volunteers for when they are stung: stay calm, and let an adult remove the stinger.
- In the event of a bee sting, qualified first aider to apply first aid.
- In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, qualified first aiders to apply emergency care. Epipens located behind kitchen door. Call 000 immediately.
- Where possible, wear loose clothing. Tight clothes are easier for stingers to pierce the fabric. Tape clothing openings; a calm bee that gets trapped under a T-shirt quickly turns into a feisty bee.

#### Educators will:

- **Educate** - Every budding beekeeper should be well-versed on the behaviour, lifecycle, colony structure and habits of the honeybee. This may mean reading literature and discussing the honeybee before starting. Set and establish ground rules about the clothes worn during beekeeping activities, and make sure you and the children are in agreement before starting.

## Strategies

- **Model Good Beekeeping Behaviour** - Children will be looking to you and watching you carefully. They will be learning from you first and foremost how to treat bees and how to move around them. Model good beekeeping practices. The future of the beekeeping world depends on what you teach the next generation.
- **Respect their fears** - If children are feeling scared or anxious, acknowledge and respect these feelings. Children may need more time and information to develop their understanding and resilience.
- **Being Close to Nature** - The opportunity to engage children in nature is important. A strong awareness of the natural world in the young is positively encouraged. There are many ways to do this, of course, but few are as direct, hands-on and personal as a beehive. Seeing thousands of bees working together, in and out of the hive, is magical to kids. Show them the queen, find some larvae, explain how bees make honey - all of this is a new and fascinating world to a young mind. Embrace this and actively encourage involvement. As children grow older their ability to explore the scope and value of bees expands too. What starts out as a brief encounter with a mysterious box in a garden or field, can often translate into life-long appreciation and involvement with science and nature.
- **Science Lessons** - Once a child is comfortable around bees, there is a tremendous opportunity for you to play the role of the best science teacher they will ever know! As you carry out an inspection, you assess and interpret the clues that bees present to us. There's a strong timeline associated with the rearing of brood. Explaining this to a child is a near perfect lesson in how insects reproduce. As kids look at eggs, larvae and pupa they build an intimate knowledge of what drives the bees streaming in and out of the hive. The production of honey is itself another lesson all wrapped up for delivery! Again, the viewing of nectar in the hive and capped honey helps a child understand the vital relationship between incoming bees bringing nectar back to the hive and the "production line" needed to store honey. The use of frames in the hive - holding brood, pollen, nectar and capped honey - is fascinating to a child and shows them how organisation can drive a community of tens of thousands of committed members. There's a broader lesson about collaboration, democracy and more and these lessons will start sinking in early for a child exposed to beekeeping.

### First Aid and Emergency (refer to relevant Policy)

- **In the event of a life threatening medical emergency, call 000 immediately**
- All Educators will hold a current First Aid Certificate.
- A suitably stocked first aid kit is available at all times at the centre and a portable kit is available for excursions.
- Staff working with our Beekeeping program will be familiar with and hold qualifications in the treatment of Anaphylaxis.
- Staff working with our Beekeeping program will be familiar with children who are anaphylactic to bees and will consult with and have a mutually agreed plan families prior to involvement of these children in any beekeeping activities.
- All equipment, medicines, drugs and other potentially harmful substances are stored in cupboards or areas that are inaccessible to children.
- First Aid Equipment and Medicines are checked each term and restocked as required.
- All accidents are to be recorded on the accident report forms and signed by staff and parents

## Resources & References

For further information visit:

<https://www.perfectbee.com/learn-about-bees/about-beekeeping/beekeeping-with-kids>

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 Sections 165, 166, 167

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Regulations 84, 85, 86, 99, 100, 101, 102, 168(2)(h)

The National Quality Standard (2010)

Being, Belonging and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (2009).

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

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