

# Bicycle and Scooter Policy Guidelines for Early Childhood Centres



## Why does your early childhood centre need this policy?

- Bicycles and scooters are popular toys or modes of transport for children aged 0-4.
- An average of 49 children, under age five are hospitalised for injuries relating to cycle and scooter injuries every year.
- Children's brains are particularly vulnerable to injury, and cycle helmets provide effective protection and reduce the risk of injuries.
- Providing a safe environment in which to scoot and cycle can prevent injuries and save lives.

## Key ways to prevent injuries to children

- Many early childhood centres provide helmets for children riding bicycles and scooters enabling them to improve motor skill development and explore their physical capabilities safely. (Kotahitanga).
- Children are more likely to wear helmets outside of the centre if safe practices have been fostered in the ECE environment (Whānau tangata).
- Provide or ensure that children wear a correctly fitted helmet that meets an approved safety standard.
- Keeping equipment safely stored and surfaces well maintained can also help reduce injuries.
- Provide a separate or designated space for riding bicycles and scooters.
- Involving children in keeping safe encourages them to take increasing responsibility for their own learning and care (whakamana).

# Bicycle and Scooter Policy

## Goal:

To allow children to participate in bicycle and scooter activities while minimising the risk of injury.

## Purpose:

1. To support safety awareness for bicycle and scooter use.
2. To encourage injury prevention practices in the centre and community.
3. To encourage whanau/families to model and reinforce safety messages learnt in the Early Childhood Centre.

## Guidelines:

Teachers aim to take the following actions to keep children safe from harm by:

- ensuring children wear safety standard approved, and appropriately fitted helmets when riding bikes and scooters
- encouraging children and adults to wear helmets when travelling to and from the centre
- encouraging children riding scooters and skateboards to wear shoes
- providing a clear, well maintained space for riding activities away from other children
- storing equipment safely when not in use
- providing appropriate adult supervision (Ngā hononga).

*ECES will be taking all responsible precautions to prevent accidents.  
(Childhood Services Regulations 1998)*

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*Safekids Aotearoa's mission is to reduce the incidence and severity of unintentional injuries to New Zealand children aged 0 – 14 years*