

Storypark 

Child safety in Storypark



Introduction

The last few years haven't felt easy for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services.

In Australia, one of the first questions a family asks when choosing a service is 'how will you keep my child safe?' Not 'do you have a garden?' or 'what equipment do you have in your sandpit?'

We want Storypark to be the platform that helps you answer that question, whichever side of the Tasman you're on.

We've written this guide to help surface some safety controls already available in Storypark, as well as some actionable steps your teams can take now, to help improve child safety across your service(s).

Thanks for being on the journey with us.



Katie Dowle
Chief Product and Marketing Officer



Thoughtful imagery

Research shows that children learn best when their home and early learning environments are connected.

When families respond to their child's learning, they add valuable meaning and insight that educators can build on. Where families share moments from home, your team can use that to plan experiences, start conversations, and greet children with the things that matter to them.

Connecting a child's two worlds matters, but how imagery supports that goal is down to your teams.

How many photos does a story need?

Before adding another image to a story, it's worth asking what it tells families that the last one doesn't.

Two to four photos is usually enough to show how a moment unfolded, how a friendship has evolved or how a child has progressed over time. Some stories only need one. A few need more, and your educators are best placed to judge which is which.



Group stories travel the furthest

Before publishing a group story, check you have permission to share a photo of every child in it, including any child in the background. If you don't have permission to use a child's photo, crop them out in Storypark or choose a different image.

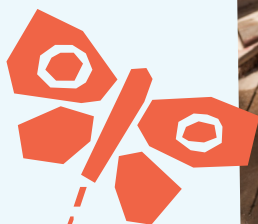
A clear photo of a child's face belongs more comfortably in an individual story, where the only people who see it are that child's own family.

A meaningful photo doesn't always need a face

Here are some other options to consider:

- **Photograph what the child is doing rather than the child.** A photo of their hands, the materials they've chosen or something they've built, shows the learning just as well.
- **Take the photo from above, from behind, or from further back.** All three show the learning without showing a face.
- **Show the provocation, then show what children did with it.** That's two photos, neither needing a face, and together they show how their thinking developed.
- **Record a voice instead of taking a photo.** A voice recording captures what children are saying without identifying anyone, and it puts an educator's attention on their words rather than on the camera.

Apply thoughtful image guidance to community posts, child notes, plans and educator portfolios, as well as stories.



Once it's in Storypark, clear the device

A photo on a service device doesn't need to stay there.

Clearing camera rolls regularly is one of the simplest habits a team can build, and it's what the National Model Code asks of services in Australia. Emptying the photo bin is just as important – a deleted photo can stay in the bin until it's emptied on some devices.

It's worth asking your teams: how many photos of children are on our devices right now, and when did we last clear them?

If you'd like something to work through with your educators, the [Storypark from policy to practice workbook](#), walks through seven real scenarios, mapped to the National Quality Standards (NQS).

Controls in Storypark

Here are some simple controls that you can use in Storypark today.

Media limits

Your organisation can set a limit on how many images, videos and PDFs go into a single story.

Set the limit once and it applies across your service(s). To set a limit, or change one you already have, talk to your Storypark Account Manager or email hello@storypark.com.

Image protection in emails

Turn on image protection, and children's photos in email notifications get replaced with a soft blurred colour wash, so the real photo never leaves Storypark. Families log in to Storypark as normal to see the image itself.

Independent services can turn on image protection from Storypark service settings. Tap 'Edit' next to your service name, tick 'Image protection in emails' under 'email settings', and 'save'.

If you're a network customer, contact your Account Manager or email hello@storypark.com and we'll turn the feature on for you.

Screenshot protection

Images in the Storypark for Educators and Storypark for Families apps can't be captured in a screenshot or a screen recording. Screenshot protection is on automatically for all services and families.

Planning admin

If you're a network customer, you can assign a planning admin role within each of your services.

Planning admins can see every plan, whether it's been shared with them or not, and even after an educator has left. To assign the role, tick 'Access all plans' in Multi-site Management.

"We love how Storypark is constantly reinventing ways children can be kept safe on an online platform."

Anjali Rauniyar, General Manager at Little Assets Early Learning Centres.

Or try these...

Incident reporting

Did you know you can use Storypark for incident reporting?

Document what happened, where it happened, and what was done about it.

Add internal notes only colleagues can see, and mark on a child diagram where the child was impacted.

Choose whether photos are allowed, and whether witness and family signatures are required.

Families are notified once the report is published and can access reports on the web, or via the Storypark for Families app.

Reports export easily, so they're ready whenever you need them for a compliance review.

Forms and checklists

Create fully customisable safety and compliance forms in Storypark. Set up opening and closing checks, playground and equipment inspections, or anything else your service needs.

If educators notice something that needs attention, such as a broken piece of equipment or other hazard, they can flag it and add a short note, and service admins will be notified to follow up.

Completing forms is easy for educators to do, on desktop or on-the-go via the latest version of the Storypark for Educators app.

Form data can be exported to spreadsheets and completed forms printed for your records.

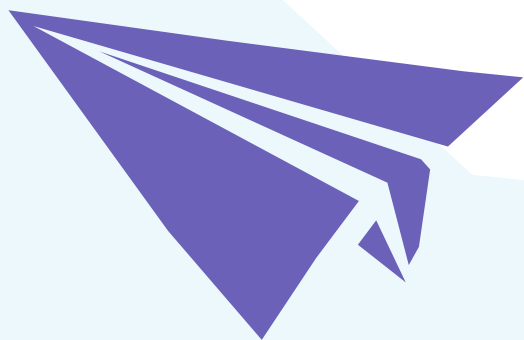
Routines

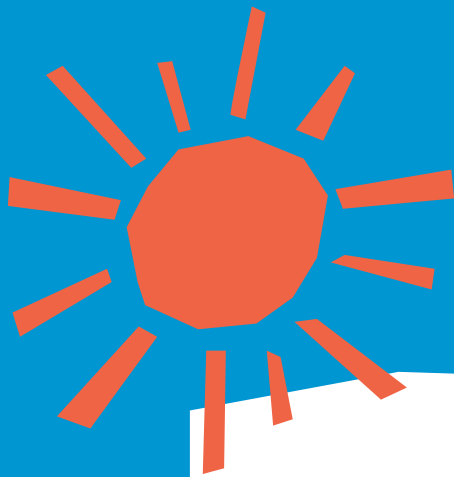
Routines record the every day care moments in a child's day so the record is there when you need it.

Food and drink, sleep, toileting and sunscreen, plus anything else your service needs to track, like medication or temperature checks.

Educators record on the web or in the Storypark for Educators app, for one child or a whole room at once.

Export routines to a spreadsheet whenever you need them for a compliance review.





More help is coming

There's so much more to come, and we can't wait to share it with you.

If there's something we can help you with in the meantime, please ask your Account Manager or email hello@storypark.com.

