



# Using a verandah as indoor play space

Photography: Michael Marston

A centre-based service must have at least 3.25 square metres of clear indoor space for each child (regulation 107(2) Education and Care Services National Regulations).

A verandah can be included as indoor play space as long as it has been approved in writing by the Queensland Regulatory Authority, being the Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training (regulation 107 (4)).

## What is a verandah?

A verandah is defined as a porch, balcony, usually roofed and often partially enclosed, extending along the outside of a building which is attached or adjoining the building.

## The approved provider:

- may apply to use a verandah in the initial application for a service approval, or at a later time during the life of the service approval
- must provide evidence from a building practitioner to show the verandah can be classed as an indoor space under relevant building codes.

## What is considered in granting approval?

Not all verandahs are suitable for indoor play activities. To ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children, the

department will consider on a case by case basis whether a verandah is appropriate.

## Factors the department considers include:

- physical elements of the space (such as the floor and roof)
- climate and protection from the weather (are fans, heaters, air-conditioning, shading needed to protect children from the weather?)
- potential for overcrowding (will children be playing in the space for long periods of time?)
- shape and position of the verandah (is there clear space and can children be adequately supervised?).

## Has the verandah been calculated as outdoor space?

A verandah included in calculating the area of outdoor space cannot be included in calculating the area of indoor space (regulation 107(5)). For more information on outdoor space requirements (regulation 108), read the fact sheet *Enclosed outdoor space*.

## More information

- Visit the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority website at [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)
- Email the department at [ecis@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:ecis@det.qld.gov.au)
- Contact your local regional office (visit the department's website at [www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au](http://www.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au) and search for "regional offices").

