



## Essendon Keilor Gymnastics Academy

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## Children With Additional Needs Policy

### Statement of Commitment:

EKGA is committed to delivering "Gymnastics for All". EKGA attempts to include all community members regardless of gender, ability, cultural or religious backgrounds.

### Definitions / Policy Coverage:

Coaches includes all coaches, junior coaches, senior coaches, volunteer coaches and guest coaches

Staff members include cleaning staff, maintenance staff, coaches, reception / office staff

A child with additional needs is the term used to describe a child who has a condition or disability that requires them to have additional help or support to participate in gymnastics classes (when compared with children the same age)

### Policy Application

Gymnasts, Children with additional needs, Coaches, Staff, Management

### Roles and Responsibilities

EKGA aims to include children with additional needs into the programs, however this can only occur if the inclusion of the child with additional needs does not

- a) pose a safety concern to themselves or others
- b) require the coach to spend more time with that child than they will with any other child
- c) disrupt the class.

### School Age Children:

If the child is at a special school OR needs a carer at a mainstream school then they would need a carer in a gymnastics environment. If the parents are able to source funding for a carer then the child may be able to be included in a mainstream class.

A child can generally attend a mainstream class without a carer if they can meet the following criteria:

- 1) The child needs to be able to listen to the coach and understand what the coach is saying
- 2) The child needs to be able to stay on task (not get distracted) long enough to listen to instructions and follow circuits and play games.
- 3) The child needs to have the ability to understand WHY safety rules are in place and then abide by them.
- 4) The child needs to be able to understand boundaries, staying with their group and the idea of a circuit.
- 5) The child needs to be able to communicate any needs they have and be able to take care of these needs (going to the toilet, blowing nose, drinking water, climbing on and off equipment)
- 6) The child needs to be aware of personal space and be able to respect other members of the class (i.e. not touching other gymnasts, hitting, spitting, stroking, pinching etc.)

### Preschoolers:

Children with additional needs are encouraged to utilize the Tiny Tots and Squirts Kinder Gym programs. As parents are present during the class and act as "carers", the children have the one on one support they need to safely participate in the program. Children may need to remain in the Squirts program (rather than moving onto independent classes) if they have special needs and need the assistance of a carer as no provision for parent participation is made in the Monkeys program.

### Policy Breaches and Consequences

Essendon Keilor Gymnastics Academy is aware of the necessity to enforce policies and procedures for the safety of our members and for risk management reasons. Some families choose not to disclose medical conditions or additional needs that their child may have. This makes the job of the coach much harder. If a child demonstrates a need for additional assistance the coach needs to discuss the concerns with their supervisor. The supervisor will then help the coach to discuss the concerns with the parents (and possibly the manager or director) to ensure that the child is enrolled in a program that is suitable for their needs and that they can participate in safely. The manager / director will make the ultimate decision regarding whether or not EKGA staff can accommodate a child with additional needs in a particular class on a case by case basis.