

# Whakapapa Ski Area – Children in Backpacks Policy

Version: 17/4/25

## Introduction:

Skiing and or boarding with a baby/ infant/ small child in a front or backpack creates risks that go beyond the tolerable threshold for the Whakapapa Safety Management System.

## Purpose:

To maintain the safety of all our guests, particularly the youngest/smallest who may be inadvertently injured during normal ski/boarding incidents and who are more vulnerable to adverse weather conditions during unexpected lift stoppages.

## Risks:

The following table outlines the typical risks associated with skiing/riding with a small child in back or front packs.

Hazard:	Risk (pre-controls)	Control:	Risk (post controls)
Child is injured when parent or caregiver crashes.		Entirely dependant on skier/rider skill level.	
Child is injured when parent or caregiver is collided with by another rider.		Entirely dependent on skier/rider skill level, slope congestion and conditions.	
Child is affected more quickly by cold conditions – hypothermia during unexpected lift stoppage/ evacuation.		Ensure that all guests are aware of and prepared for conditions.  This remains subjective.	
Child is injured during a lift load or unloading incident.		Lift operator training, compliant lifts, signage etc.	

## Procedures:

- Whakapapa reserves the right to prohibit any activity, including skiing or riding with children in back packs, that presents serious risks to its customers and or visitors as per the HSWA 2015.
- Based on the risk assessment above, Whakapapa has chosen to prohibit guests carrying children in back or front packs whilst skiing or snowboarding.
- We recommend Happy Valley as suitable options for children to learn about snow sports safely under their own mobility.
- Alternatively, the Sky Waka Gondola is a suitable option to experience the alpine environment in a safe manner for infants etc.

