

Safe Storage of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Policy

Policy Statement

By maximising awareness of the potential hazards of chemicals and equipment within the centre, we aim to minimise the risk of harm to staff, educators, children and families. With this in mind, the Centre follows the recommendations and guidelines from recognised health and safety authorities regarding the handling, labeling, storage and use of these items to minimise any risk to children's safety while they are at the Centre.

Links Education and Care Centres National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2011

Regs	S.167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
	82	Tobacco, drug and alcohol free environment
	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
	106	Laundry and hygiene facilities
	168	Education and care service must have policies and procedure
	170	Policies and procedures to be followed
NQS	2.2	Safety- Each child is protected
	2.2.1	Supervision - At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

IMPLEMENTATION

APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE:

- educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy
- families are aware of this *Safe Storage of Hazardous Chemicals Policy*
- that every practical measure is taken to protect children being educated and cared for by the Service from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury (National Law – S. 167)
- a smoke free environment is provided to children, staff, families and visitors at all times
- all dangerous goods and hazardous substances are identified within the Service and included in the chemical register
- the Poison Information Hotline number is clearly displayed near the First Aid Kit/ in each room

- a risk assessment has been conducted in consultation with the Health and Safety Representative prior to using any potentially dangerous or hazardous substance
- educators adhere to the Service procedures for dealing with and handling chemicals
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and the Chemical Register is readily available and regularly updated
- appropriate training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided for employees who may be exposed to dangerous goods and/or hazardous substances
- relevant signage is displayed highlighting the hazardous nature of chemicals used or stored in the Service (e.g., Caution- Chemical Storage Area; Danger; Hazardous Chemicals)
- laundry facilities are located and maintained in a way that prevents unsupervised access by children
- all products/chemicals used for laundry purposes are locked in a cupboard inaccessible to children
- there are emergency procedures and practices for accidental spills and/or contamination and corresponding first aid plans for all dangerous goods handled and stored in the Service
- action is taken to remove any pests or vermin by a licensed exterminator, who will provide the Service with a certificate of currency. Initially, using non-chemical methods such as physical removal, maintaining a clean environment, and use of any non-toxic products will be implemented.
- at least one educator/staff member is in attendance on the premises with ACECQA approved first aid qualifications at all times
- all staff, students and visitors are made aware of correct storage and usage procedures for potentially hazardous materials during their initial orientation at the Service
- there are appropriate and lockable storage facilities in the Service in which dangerous products are stored

- lockable storage facilities are clearly marked with signage to indicate chemicals/hazardous materials
- dangerous products will be stored in areas of the OSHC Service that are not accessible to children or in cupboards fitted with key or childproof locks
- a hazardous substances register is used and regularly updated
- a risk assessment for any dangerous materials stored in bulk within the education and care premises has been carried out and is regularly updated
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are maintained at the Service. Safety Data Sheets must be kept on all chemicals used on the premises. Work Health and Safety (WH&S) officers are to keep this information up to date at all times, with a review of the folder annually. No SDS is to be more than 5 years old.
- chemicals in spray bottles are clearly labelled with contents and are not used with children in the immediate vicinity
- in the event of any incident involving accidental exposure to chemicals or other hazards or incident involving possible poisoning, an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* will be completed
- if a serious incident occurs involving the need for medical intervention or emergency services, notification is made to the regulatory authority within 24 hours.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- seek medical advice if needed by contacting the Poisons Information Hotline (13 11 26) or by calling 000
- wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when handling dangerous substances or materials
- not use spray bottles containing chemicals in the immediate vicinity of any child or children
- read the label before using any cleaning material, sprays or chemicals and strictly adhere to the '*Directions for use*' and be aware of appropriate first aid measures

- store all dangerous products in well-labelled and original containers that preferably have child resistant lids and caps in a secure and locked place/cupboard, inaccessible to children
- ensure all chemicals and cleaning products are returned to their designated location immediately upon completion of cleaning tasks
- ensure laundry facilities have lockable cupboards for cleaning products/detergents
- not mix cleaning products as there is the potential for harmful chemical reactions to occur endangering all persons on the premises
- dispose of all products safely, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on the product label, Work Health and Safety regulations, and Council by-laws
- be encouraged to attend professional development sessions to maximise their awareness of dangerous products and potential hazards
- source chemical free methods to reduce possible hazards in the OSHC Service
- ensure cleaning and hazardous products are not stored close to food products
- consider minimising the use of dangerous products in the education and care service and use alternate 'green cleaning' options
- complete daily and quarterly WHS checklists to ensure that any dangerous products used within the Service have current Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and are stored appropriately.
- only administer children's medications or allow self-medication with parent/guardian authorisation and in accordance with medical directions (*see Administration of Medication Policy*)
- ensure medication is stored in an area inaccessible to children
- ensure any medications or dangerous substances that requires refrigeration, be placed in a labelled childproof container, preferably in a separate compartment of the fridge
- keep all button batteries and all other batteries out of reach of children

- check that all remotes, toys and products containing button batteries have a screw to secure them
- dispose of or recycle used button batteries immediately at a battery disposal centre
- in the event of any incident involving accidental exposure to chemicals or other hazards, complete an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* and provided to the approved provider/nominated supervisor.

POISONING

Many products and materials that are used and kept within an education and care service are potentially poisonous to children, especially young children. Poisonings can happen quickly, and toddlers are most at risk due to their tendency to put objects in their mouths. Educators must be aware of ensuring parents with toddlers visiting the OSHC service are adequately supervised at all times.

Poisonous substances may include medication, household cleaners, garden products, paint, cosmetics, toiletries, chemicals, batteries and petroleum products. Our OSHC Service will ensure all items that may cause harm to children in our care, and children who may be visiting our service, are inaccessible. Staff will keep their personal items in a cupboard/locker which is inaccessible to children.

Poisonous plants and trees can also cause safety risk to children and should be identified in any risk assessment conducted at the Service and risk mitigation strategies implemented including removal of any potentially dangerous/poisonous plants and trees.

Our OSHC Service will display a notice detailing the Poison Information Hotline in visible positions within the Service premises.

POISON INFORMATION HOTLINE 13 11 26

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Safe Storage of Hazardous Chemicals Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

Resources, further reading and useful websites

Sources

- DET Education. (2012). Health & Safety Factsheet: Safe handling & disposal of needles and syringes. <http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/usedneedles-factsheet.pdf> accessed 29 March 2012
- Education and Care Centres National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard 2011
- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). (2019). Approved First Aid
- Qualifications: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications/nqf-approved>
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2000*. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2001.
- Safe Work Australia. (2020). [Managing risks of storing chemicals in the workplace](#).
- *The NSW Work Health and Safety Act, 2011*

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