

Dangerous Products, Plants, Vermin and Objects Policy

Policy Statement

Young children have limited understanding of the potential dangers of products, plants and objects in the environment. With this in mind, the Service 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 2018, National Quality Standard 2018

Regs 85 Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures

- QA 2.1.2 The service implements injury management processes such as risk identification
- 2.2.1 Children are adequately supervised at all times
 - 2.2.1 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazard likely to cause injury
 - 2.2.2 Plans to effectively manage incidents are emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities. practised and implemented

Procedures

- During their orientation, all staff are made aware of the need to strictly adhere to the contents of this Policy, and the Policy is discussed during team meetings and when required.
- The service maintains an up-to-date list of all chemicals and cleaning agents used in the Centre. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), together with any additional first-aid instructions required, are maintained for each item, and kept wherever potentially hazardous materials are stored. The MSDS are filed in a way that staff can readily retrieve the information in an emergency. In such emergencies, staff follow the procedures detailed on the particular MSDS. In addition, staff seek advice from the Poisons Information Centre whose number is posted beside the service telephone.
- All potentially hazardous materials are kept in locked child-proof cupboards and, wherever possible, beyond the reach of children, when not being used. Only frequently used items are stored in the rooms that children access.
- Clear warning signs are displayed wherever potentially hazardous materials are stored. As part of the program, educators discuss with the children various safety issues relating to hazardous materials, poisonous plants and other dangers such as vermin.
- Wherever possible, hazardous products are kept in their original labelled container. When decanted, the alternative container is clearly labelled with the product name as written on the supplier's label, and the date of decanting. Staff check all labels regularly for legibility.

- When using any hazardous products, all staff follow the instructions on the labels. Staff members who cannot understand the instructions seek guidance from other staff.
- Hazardous products and chemicals are disposed of in strict accordance with the instructions on the labels.
- Staff, conduct daily safety checks of the building and outdoor play areas for foreign objects, vermin, sharps, possible harmful plants or damaged equipment.
- The service's *Administration of Medication Policy* contains guidelines for parents when bringing medications into the Centre, and for the staff handling and storing these medications.
- Any item brought into the service is checked by educators to ensure it does not pose any danger to children, and any identified risk discussed with the family to ensure they are aware of the danger and why the item cannot be left at the service.
- Safety plugs are fitted to all power points. Electrical appliances are inaccessible to children. All electrical appliances are appropriately 'tested and tagged' annually.
- Poisonous and hazardous plants are identified and action taken in accordance with advice from the Poisons Information Centre (Telephone 13 11 26). Educators intentionally teach children of the danger posed by these plants.
- In the event of a sharp/dangerous object such as razor or knife blade or broken glass being found at the service, the item is disposed of immediately.
- In the event of a hypodermic needle being found at the service
 - Educators:
 - Do not attempt to pick up the syringe
 - Remove children from the area and keep them away until the needle has been removed
 - Notify the Nominated Supervisor immediately
 - The Authorised Supervisor will:
 - Call the sharps hotline (Queensland 1800 633 353) to find out how and where to safely dispose of the syringe
 - Act according to advice from the hotline.
- In the event of a snake being found at the service
 - Educators:
 - Do not attempt to pick up or kill the snake
 - Remove the children from the area and keep them away until the snake has been removed, or the Nominated Supervisor gives direction to the contrary
 - Notify the Nominated Supervisor immediately
 - The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Call the relevant herpetologist/wildlife authority on the emergency list displayed beside the telephone
- Act according to the advice from that authority.

Links to other policies

- [Administration of Medication](#)
- [Supervision Policy](#)

Sources, 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 2018
- National Quality Standard 2018
- RSPCA. (2011). *There's a snake in my backyard what should I do?* http://kb.rspca.org.au/Theres-a-snake-in-my-backyard-what-should-i-do_443.html

Useful websites

- Kidsafe – www.kidsafe.com.au

Comments

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