

## CLEANLINESS AND SANITATION

### **AIM:**

Children have the right to an education in an environment that provides for their health and safety. Good cleaning and maintenance of the environment ensures that illness and unintentional injuries are avoided. Environmental responsibility also encompasses the cleaning and maintenance of the education and care service in ways that are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Maintaining a clean, sanitary environment is the responsibility of all staff, educators and visitors.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

The service will be cleaned by professional cleaners at the end of each day.

#### **Staff / educators are responsible for: -**

- The maintenance and cleaning of all areas and materials the children use, which are not the responsibility of cleaners. Shelves and materials are to be cleaned and sanitised weekly. Plastic toys will be placed through the dishwasher, wooden toys will be wiped over with neutral detergent and paper towel, cloth based toys and dress ups will be sanitised in washing machine on hot cycle and placed in dryer.
- Children's toys and equipment is to be cleaned with neutral detergent on a regular on-going basis. Objects that children may have placed in their mouths are to be cleaned daily. Any toy taken from storage should not be returned until it has been cleaned appropriately.
- Tables used for eating, or food preparation must be cleaned with neutral detergent and paper towel before and after use.
- Craft area and kitchen food preparation areas to be separate.
- Children's bathrooms should also be spot checked regularly by staff to maintain their cleanliness and to ensure they are adequately stocked. Staff should carry out this procedure using non latex gloves and wash hands thoroughly when completed.
- All Hazardous Chemicals to be kept in locked cupboards.
- Involve children in discussions about health and safety issues and support children to develop guidelines to keep the environment safe for all.
- Role model good cleaning practices for the children and encourage children to be involved in the cleaning of the environment where appropriate.
- Support children to have an active role in caring for their environment and to contribute to a sustainable future.

- Seek to minimise the use of chemicals in the education and care environment.
- Research natural cleaning alternatives for use in the education and care environment. Natural or chemical-free options that are sensitive to the needs of educators and children with allergies will be utilised when possible.
- Consider sustainable practice when cleaning. Staff will reflect on their practices and access professional development, journals and the Internet for more ideas on eco-friendly cleaning options.
- Aim to minimise waste by encouraging recyclable materials to be placed in labelled recycling containers rather than garbage bins.

## **EVALUATION**

The education and care service is well cleaned and maintained to support children's health and safety. Children and educators work cooperatively to care for the environment in a sustainable manner. The education and care environment reflects sustainable practices, 'Green Cleaning' and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.