

SAFE STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS POLICY

Introduction:

By maximising awareness of the potential hazards of chemicals and equipment, we reduce the risk of harm to educators, children and families by ensuring dangerous products are safely stored and their use is minimised in all areas of our education and care service.

Aim:

The education and care service aims to reduce the use of dangerous products within the environment by introducing eco-friendly cleaning options. The education and care service endeavours to provide a safe environment where chemicals and hazardous equipment are safely stored away from children and are stored and handled appropriately.

Implementation:

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury. (National Law section 167.)

The Authorised Supervisor will:

- Ensure that there are emergency procedures and practices for accidental spills, contamination and corresponding first aid plans for all dangerous goods handled and stored in the service.
- Ensure that at all times there is an educator on the premises with WorkCover & ACECQA approved first aid qualifications.
- Ensure that there are appropriate storage facilities in the service in which dangerous products are stored. Dangerous products will preferably be stored in areas of the service that are not accessible to children or in cupboards fitted with childproof locks.
- Develop a hazardous substances register and a risk assessment for any dangerous materials stored in bulk within the education and care premises. The register will record the product name, application, whether the SDS (previously MSDS) is available, what class risk the chemical has, controls for prevention of exposure required, what first aid, medical or safety action should be taken if a person is exposed.

Educators will:

- Seek medical advice as needed by contacting the **Poisons Information Line – 13 11 26** or by calling **000**.
- Wear Personal Protective Clothing when handling dangerous materials (including gloves).
- Strictly adhere to the 'Directions for use' on the product label.

- 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.
- Consider minimising the use of dangerous products in the education and care service and use alternate "green cleaning" options.
- Complete daily WHS checklists to ensure that any dangerous products used within the education and care service have current Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and are stored appropriately.
- Store all dangerous products in well-labelled and original containers that preferably have child-resistant lids and caps.
- Only administer children's medications with family authorisation and in accordance with medical directions. All medications will be stored in an area inaccessible to children. If any medications or dangerous substances require refrigeration, they must be placed in a labelled childproof container, preferably in a separate compartment of the fridge.
- Be encouraged to attend professional development sessions to maximise their awareness of dangerous products, potential hazards and source chemical free methods to reduce possible hazards in the education and care service.

Evaluation

Educators and the approved provider are abiding by legislative and statutory guidelines. The education and care service has adopted sustainable practices and reduced the use of dangerous products within the environment.