

HEALTH & SAFETY - FENCING

POLICY

The provision of barriers around hazards is necessary to ensure that children cannot impulsively run out into dangerous situations. The barrier should be such as to prevent children from scaling it or crawling under it. The provision of barriers is not a substitute for constant supervision in play areas.

PROCEDURE

1. All outdoor play areas must be securely fenced in a manner that prevents preschool children scaling it (recommended fence height is minimum of 1.2 metres) and have lockable gates which prevent access by children to other areas.
2. Premises adjacent to or providing access to any hazards including water hazards (such as dams, swimming pools, spas or fish ponds), or roads, shall be isolated from such hazards by an effective barrier or fence. Gates in fences should be secured with a latch which is inaccessible to children.
3. Any side of a stairway, ramp or corridor, hallway or external balcony which is accessible and is likely to cause a hazard to children in care and is not abutting a wall must be protected to prevent a child falling through or scaling.
4. Age appropriate barriers are required at the top or bottom of stairs.