

HEALTH & SAFETY - OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

POLICY

Outdoor play is very important to allow children fresh air and exercise, but the outdoor environment has a range of health and safety hazards which require Educators to exercise vigilance in supervision.

PROCEDURE

1. Children are to be constantly supervised whilst engaged in outdoor play.
2. Trees or structures from which a child could fall 1.5 metres or more must be made inaccessible for children to climb.
3. All structures and trees are to be securely fixed and not contain sharp, jagged or protruding pieces.
4. Verandahs/balconies and external stairs/steps (3 or more rises) are to be bounded by a wall or sturdy balustrade with no sharp, splintery surfaces or protruding components.
5. All ground surfaces are to be free from sharp, jagged and protruding objects.
6. BBQs, incinerators and wood/rubble piles are to be made inaccessible to children. Incinerators are not to be used whilst FDC children are in care.
7. Equipment and tools (ie. lawnmower, saws/cutters, power tools etc) are to be kept out of reach of children.
8. Motor driven equipment (ie. lawnmower, chainsaw, brushcutter) is not to be used whilst FDC children are in the yard.
9. Garages and storage areas must be able to be closed, locked and made inaccessible to children.
10. Clothes lines must be free of loose wires and hanging ropes and made visible to children (using insulating tape or bike handle cover).
11. A shaded area should be provided in the outdoor play area.
12. All under house openings must be made inaccessible to children.
13. Holes, wells, trenches and excavations are to be covered or enclosed to prevent access by children.
14. Items which could lead to the entrapment of the head, neck, limbs or fingers of a young child must be stored out of reach of children or rendered inoperable.
15. Items which could become unstable and fall onto a child (ie. motor cycle, trailer) must be kept secured/guarded and/or out of reach of children.
16. Items which could be swallowed or inhaled to cause choking of a child, or could smother or suffocate a child, shall be kept out of reach

Source: Mt Alexander FDC handbook
National Law, Regulations and Standards (ACECQA 2011)
Kidsafe Guidelines

Reviewed September 2005, October 2008, July 2009, July 2012