

HEALTH & SAFETY – TOXIC PRODUCTS (Minimise their use)

POLICY

Educators will protect staff, children, families and visitors from the risks associated with chemical products, medicines, other dangerous substances and dangerous equipment used in the home environment.

PROCEDURE

When using or storing any chemical or dangerous substance or equipments, Educators should:

- Choose the least hazardous chemical, product or equipment for the job.
- Choose chemicals or medicines with child resistant lids or caps.
- Ensure that all dangerous substances, cleaning materials, poisons and medications are stored in their original labelled container.
- Do not reuse storage containers and discard them properly when empty. Chemicals or medications should never be flushed down the sink, toilet, sewer or gutter. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for disposal of chemicals. Any unused medication can be returned to your local pharmacy and they will discard them; this is a free service.
- Ensure that all hazardous substances; including chemicals, detergents, toiletries and medication, are stored in a child proof locked cupboard and/or kept up at least 1.75 metres high.
- Ensure that if any of the above substances need to be refrigerated (i.e. medication), they are stored in a labelled child resistant container, preferably in a separate compartment or in a part of the refrigerator that is inaccessible to children.
- Not store pesticides, herbicides, solvents, petroleum or kerosene on the premises, unless contained in a separate outdoor shed that is securely locked at all times and separate from the children's outdoor environment.
- Seek medical advice immediately if poisoning or potentially hazardous ingestion, inhaled, skin or eye exposure has occurred, or call the Poison Information Line on **131126**, or call an ambulance, dial **000**.
- Always have displayed emergency numbers of ambulance, fire brigade and police, children's family contact phone numbers and the Poison Information number.
- Have a complete first aid kit available at all times, out of children's reach.
- Wear appropriate personal protective clothing (e.g. gloves, mask) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions when using or disposing of hazardous chemicals and substances.
- Do not use hazardous chemicals and sprays directly around children, such as disinfectants for cleaning, floor cleaners, toilet sprays, air freshener plug ins, domestos, cleaning gels or anything that children could be exposed to.

Source: Mt Alexander FDC handbook
National Law, Regulations and Standards (ACECQA 2011)
Kidsafe Guidelines
Advice from "Safe Start" Coordinator
Australian Standards for storing chemicals

Reviewed March 2006, September 2008, July 2009, July 2012