

46. Safe Storage and Use of Dangerous Products



Introduction

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

Purpose

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

Goals – What are we going to do?

The centre aims to minimise the use of toxic products and other potentially dangerous products in the centre. The centre aims to clean the premises to a hygienic standard by using earth renewable products and with minimal use of toxic products. The centre endeavours to provide a safe environment where chemicals and hazardous equipment are safely stored away from children and are stored and handled appropriately.

Strategies – How will it be done?

- Only use cleaning products provided by centre management
- Cleaning products are to be clearly marked for all products
- To minimise fumes - spray bottles should be put on squirt
- Potentially dangerous products will be stored in a key locked cupboard or cleaner's room/laundry which is inaccessible to children at all times.
- Dangerous products sign will be clearly placed on outside of cleaning/storage cupboards
- MSD sheets are to be kept with products in laundry/cleaning area
- Any chemical used in nappy change areas or play rooms will be kept out of reach of children at all times.

Dangerous Equipment

Any equipment that is determined unsafe by the Nominated Supervisor or staff and educators is to be removed (if possible), and placed in an area that is inaccessible to children and not used. If the equipment is not able to be removed all attempts should be made to make the area inaccessible to all persons and children utilising the centre. A “Danger sign” may need to be erected on the equipment. All broken toys are to be removed from playrooms and outdoor areas. A member of the management team is to be notified immediately by email or phone and the Safety Check and Maintenance form is to be emailed to the Operations Manager. The Nominated Supervisor or Responsible person on duty at the time will be responsible for removing the risk or making it safe and inaccessible to persons in the centre. The Approved Provider will be responsible for attending to the risk if necessary and advising the Nominated Supervisor of the time frame for fixing the risk.

Dangerous Products

A poison is any substance that, when taken into the body, may be harmful to the normal functions of the body. If poisoning occurs then immediately contact the **Poisons Information Line on 13 11 26** and seek advice and medical help as required. If needed then follow the **action plan** attached to this policy. The Incident, Illness, Injury and Trauma Policy should then be followed.

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider will:

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

Nominated 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 ACECQA approved first aid qualifications.
- Ensure that there are appropriate storage facilities in the centre in which dangerous products are stored. Dangerous products will preferably be stored in areas of the centre that are not accessible to children or in cupboards fitted with childproof locks.
- Ensure current Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are kept on premises for all chemicals and dangerous products kept at the centre

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.
- 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.

- 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. See Medication Policy. 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.

Related Legislation

- Education and Care Services National Law Act
- Education and Care Services National Regulations: 77, 106
- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

Links to other policies and documents

- Safety Check and Maintenance Form
- Incident, Injury, Illness and Trauma Policy
- Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations:
77, 106

Links to National Quality Standards/Elements:
2.3.2

Sources

- Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods: Guidance - www.safework.nsw.gov.au
- NSW Poisons Information Centre – The Children’s hospital at Westmead – www.poisonsinfo.nsw.gov.au
- Health and Safety in Children’s Centres: Model Policies and practices. First Aid for Everyone (National Safety Council of Australia)
- Community Early Learning Australia

Dangerous Products Action Plan



Burning Poisons

If a poison burns as it enters the body, then it will burn as it comes out of the body, so it is vitally important that the casualty is not made to vomit.

Common burning poisons – are as follows:

- Acids
- Caustic soda drain cleaners
- Floor strippers
- Pool chemicals
- Oven cleaners
- Disinfectants
- Ammonia
- Phenol
- Sulphuric acid

Signs and Symptoms

- Burning sensation in the mouth & throat
- Red blistered lips/ Swelling inside mouth
- Severe pain

Casualty Management

- Give nothing to drink
- Avoid vomiting
- Urgently seek medical aid

Petroleum Poisons

Poisons based on petroleum are commonly found around the home and the work place. Small amount of these poisons can cause severe damage to the lungs because, being aromatic, the fumes spread quickly through the respiratory system.

Common Petroleum based poisons – are as follows

- Thinners
- Petrol
- Dry cleaning fluids
- Lighter fluid
- Kerosene

Signs and Symptoms

- Red lips
- Blisters
- Breath smelling of fumes
- Pain

Casualty Management

- Avoid vomiting
- Give nothing to drink
- Urgently seek medical aid

Non Burning Poisons

Identify the poison and manage the casualty.

Common non burning poisons – are as follows:

- Drugs
- Moth balls
- Alcohol
- Some plants
- Iron tablets

Casualty Management

If Conscious

The aim is to get the poison out of the body which is done by making the casualty vomit.

- Give syrup of Ipecac if available as directed on the label followed by water
- Tickling the back of the throat will induce vomiting if Ipecac is unavailable
- Seek medical aid

If Unconscious

- Check air way, breathing & circulation
- Stable side position
- Urgently seek medical aid

Inhalation

Normal air breath contains sufficient oxygen for the body to survive, but any interruption of this balance will poison the body cells. This may be rapid in onset or creep up on the unsuspecting person.

Common inhaled poisons – are as follows:

- Carbon monoxide
- Smoke
- Gases
- Fumes
- Methane

Signs

- Breathlessness
- Blue tinge around the lips and skin
- Giddiness.
- Loss of consciousness

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

The casualty has cherry pink lips & skin, not blue.

Casualty Management-

- Safety for your self is the first priority
- Move casualty to fresh air only if it is safe to do so
- Check breathing
- EAR if the casualty is not breathing
- Urgently seek medical aid

Caution – always think before rushing in, if it is a non-air situation, then the first aider will be the next casualty.

Absorption

Because the skin is the largest organ of the body and has a rich blood supply, poisons that come in contact with it can become readily absorbed by the blood vessels and transported through the body.

Common types of absorbed poisons- are as follows

- Garden sprays
- Pesticides
- Chemicals
- Lead
- Solvents

Signs and Symptoms

- Nausea, vomiting
- Local rash, dermatitis
- Breathing difficulties
- Headache

Casualty Management

- Remove all clothing
- Immediately wash the chemical off the body
- Monitor airways, breathing & circulation
- Seek medical aid

Injections

Poisons that enter the body by injection work on the body very quickly and there is very little the first aider can do to slow this. If the casualty is conscious, seek medical advice.

If the casualty is unconscious check the:-

- Airways
- Breathing
- Circulation
- Stable side position
- Urgent medical aid
- Send syringe and drugs with casualty to hospital

NOTE: all chemicals should be handled, transported & stored in accordance with manufactures instructions on the labels or the MSD sheets which are stored in laundry/cleaning cupboard of centre.

Source – First Aid for Everyone (National Safety Council of Australia)