

Evidence of link to Regulations (ECSNR):

Evidence of link to NQS:::

Use and Storage of Dangerous Goods/Chemicals

Version	Date	Author	Change Description
1	Aug 2013	Sharon Hales	
2	Nov 2015	Sharon Hales	Review and update
3	Jan 2018	Sharon Hales	Review and update

Policy Objective

Our centre aims to establish and implement a set of procedures which will ensure a safe environment is maintained through the correct storage and use of potentially dangerous goods including pesticides, cleaning agents, dishwashing liquids, herbicides, petroleum (eg mower fuel), paints, containers etc. the use and storage of medication is also an important consideration in relation to this issue but has been addressed in the centres 'Medication Policy'

Strategies and practices

When using or storing any chemicals or dangerous substances Medowie Gumnut Preschool will:

- Provide storage facilities that are secure and inaccessible to children for the following types of items. All containers, cupboards used for this purpose must be locked or at an adult level with a childproof latch. They must also be labelled with a description of contents and contains directions for their use:
 - All cleaning materials, including detergents
 - Poisonous and other dangerous substances
 - Dangerous tools and equipment
 - Toiletries
 - First aid equipment
 - Emergency medical equipment and drugs
 - If any of the above substances need to be refrigerated, they will be stored in a labelled child resistant container, in a part of the refrigerator inaccessible to children

- Choose least hazardous chemicals, products or equipment where possible
- When possible choose chemicals or medicines with child restraint lids or caps
- Train staff to never place a substance in an unlabelled container or another container that still has its original product label on it, if that original product is different to what is being placed in the container.
- All chemical containers will be properly disposed of when empty, as per instructions on the container. They will not be emptied down any drain, toilet, sewer or gutter.
- All dangerous substances will have the following information on their labels. If of some reason this information has rubbed off over time and/or is unreadable, The WH & S officer will obtain up to date information (online) from manufacturers and this will be locked in the cupboard alongside the chemicals.
 - Potential health effects of the substances
 - Precautions/instructions for use
 - Safe storage instructions
 - Emergency first aid instructions
 - Contact number and further information
- Ensure that staff wear appropriate personal protective clothing in accordance with manufacturers instructions when using or disposing of hazardous chemicals or substances.
- Ensure that pesticides and herbicides will only be applied over weekends or during vacations times and non-windy days. These chemicals will be handled by an appropriate person (not a staff member), which may mean they are certified.
- Not store pesticides, herbicides, solvents, petroleum or kerosene on the premises unless contained in a separate secure outdoor shed. These chemicals will be out of reach from children and will not be stores with organic materials or fertilisers
- All cleaning goods and any other normal cleaning chemicals held in the kitchen will be stored in a high cupboard out of the reach of children. It will be labelled and will have a childproof latch. If a cupboard is being used at a low level it must be labelled and kept locked.
- Ensure that in the case of any carer, child or other person being injured by a chemical substance, the centres emergency, medical and first aid procedures will be activated and an ambulance called if needed. Management will notify Work Cover NSW immediately. (Work Cover: Injury & Management practices <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/injuriesclaims/Pages/default.aspx>) The Poisons Information Line may also be contacted 131126.

Resources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Children (Education and Care National Law Application) Act 2010

Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2000

Dangerous Goods Storage and Handling Code of Practice 2000

Immig, J (2000) *Toxic Playground: Guide to reducing the chemical load in schools and childcare centres*. Total Environment Centre: Sydney NSW

Kids and Poisons (Retrieved Aug 2013) <http://www.childsafetyaustralia.com.au/intro.htm>

Poisons Information Line: 131126

Work Cover NSW www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

WorkCover NSW: Injury & Management Practices (Retrieved Aug 2013)

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/injuriesclaims/Pages/default.aspx>

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