

Storage of Dangerous Substances and Equipment



Policy

The use of dangerous products will be restricted to ensure the safety of children, families and staff and all such products will be kept in secure storage inaccessible to children.

Background

Dangerous substances present a variety of physical and chemical hazards and should be transported, stored and handled safely. Janelle Street Centre is committed to preventing harm to persons, property and the environment as a result of dangerous substances and therefore Janelle Street Centre will comply with government requirements in regard to storage of dangerous substances and equipment.

Practices

Appropriate induction, information, supervision, education and training will be given to all persons at the Centre, so they may carry out their roles and duties safely.

Regular safety checks will be made of the buildings and play areas for the protection of the children and staff through their indoor and outdoor checklists.

All electrical equipment will be tested and tagged annually by a qualified electrician.

The Centre will, where possible, provide information and training on Health and Safety, training on lifting children, and manual handling of equipment.

All hazardous chemicals will be clearly labelled and stored out of children's reach in locked or child-proof locked cupboards.

The laundry door will be locked at all times with the key placed high on a hook outside the laundry door to eliminate children's access.

All chemicals used will be listed on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) which are placed in the MSDS folder in the front reception area.

Chemicals such as disinfectant, decanted into squirt bottles clearly labelled, will be used in high risk areas such as bath rooms and nappy change areas.

High usage and nursery toys will be cleaned every afternoon to prevent outbreaks of disease. This will be done in late afternoon or when time permits.

All receptacles containing chemicals will be clearly labelled.

Cupboards will be marked with a poison sign (skull and cross bones), so ALL adults and children will be aware of hazard.

All pest spraying will be done on the weekends after the centre has closed and according to NQS regulations.

The MSDS will be updated annually or when the Centre introduces new chemicals.

The use of toxic chemicals is limited where possible and educators must make themselves familiar with and comply with the MSDS. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action and/or termination of employment.

Procedures for Minimising the Use of Toxic Products / Plants and Objects

Where possible Janelle Street Centre will restrict the use of dangerous toxic products by using these products only during weekends when no children are present at the Centre,

No hazardous plants are used in gardens, and weeds are removed on a regular basis when no children are in the area

All products used near children will be labelled with the name of the product and stored in cupboards inaccessible to children or locked cupboards.

Spray bottles will no longer be used – only squirt bottles will be used – to reduce the amount of fumes / sprays emitted into the atmosphere.

The reduction in the use of dangerous products is not in any way to jeopardise hygienic practices.

Sources

- www.naturalparenting.com.au (accessed November 9, 2022)
- www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au (accessed November 9, 2022)
- Staying Healthy in Childcare 4th Edition, 2005

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