



# Potentially Dangerous Products, Animals, Plants and Objects

## Policy Statement

*NBCA respects the balance about children learning about risk and encountering risks as valuable of life learning.*

### Implementation

- Staff must complete required checklists and regularly check equipment, furniture and resources are fit for purpose.
- Any venomous animals and potentially hazardous plants will be removed from the service immediately. Professionals who specialise in such removals, may be contacted.
- Staff are not to put themselves or others at risk when seeking to remove or reduce any dangerous object.
- Resources purchased or donated to the service must be checked for suitability. Medications, cleaning and gardening chemicals, or other dangerous products must be clearly labelled with their contents, be in the original container, and out of reach of children.
- Animals or plants permitted in the service or its grounds for educational purposes or to enhance children's sense of caring and responsibility will be maintained in a clean and healthy condition.
- Smoking is not permitted on the service grounds or within sight of the children and families.
- Cleaning supplies and chemicals are stored in secure cupboards inaccessible to children. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are readily accessible, WH&S checks will include the monitoring of such records.
- Staff will adhere to the "directions for use" on all product labels.
- Educators are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.
- The service and grounds will be fumigated with environmentally safe products when children are absent.
- Plastic bags are utilised to ensure cross infection reduction and appropriate handling and storage is required.
- Sharp knives must be stored in a locked cupboard or in the kitchen, when in use.
- Educators and staff are to consume hot drinks in areas inaccessible to children.
- Soiled nappies and used paper towels are to be disposed of in bins.
- Bins are regularly emptied into outside disposal units.
- Power points will remain covered with protectors, when not in use.
- Cords will be kept inaccessible to children. They will be secured or tied up so children cannot touch/reach them.

### Minimising the use of Toxic Products

- Toxic sprays (e.g. cleaning products) must only be used when children are not in the immediate area or when they are sprayed onto paper towel first.



- Where possible, environmentally friendly products will be used for cleaning, sterilising and fumigating in preference to chemical-based products.
- A bleach solution may be used for cleaning during any outbreaks, on advice from ACT Health Protection Service.

## Sharps Disposal Procedure

(Needles, Syringes and other Dangerous Objects)

- **DO NOT** attempt to move the dangerous object.
- Ensure children, parents, staff and educators remain away from the dangerous object.
- Inform the director or responsible person in charge of the service, who will contact Access Canberra on 13 22 81 to arrange urgent collection.
- Inspect all areas to ensure no further dangerous objects.

Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26

## Policy Links

Policies:

- Animals at the Service
- Child Protection
- Emergencies
- Health, Hygiene and Infection Control
- Medication
- Supervision
- Sustainability and Environmental Awareness
- Wellbeing, Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking
- Medical Conditions
- Workplace Health and Safety

NQS: 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 and 7.1

Regulations: 82, 103, 106, 109 and 112

Sources:

- ACT Health Protection Services
- National Quality Framework
- Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (5<sup>th</sup> edition) 2013
- The Cleaning Warehouse

## Policy Document Status

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Committee Representative Signature:



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