

Use and storage of Hazardous products policy

1. Objective

Annie Dennis Children's Centre (ADCC) will ensure the safe use and storage of toxic and other dangerous products so that children, staff and families are protected from the risks of these substances.

2. Definitions

Staff: includes permanent, casual, agency, long and short term appointments

3. Background

ADCC must be particularly careful with the storage and use of toxic and dangerous products because of their possible effect on children. Children are vulnerable to the impacts of chemical exposure because of their size, rapid rate of growth, level of activity and developing immune and central nervous systems.

4. Products used at ADCC

ADCC strives to maintain high hygiene standards. To this end, ADCC uses the following toxic products for cleaning:

- dishwashing detergent
- laundry powder
- household bleach (during gastroenteritis outbreaks)
- food safe sanitiser

5. Minimising the risk to children, staff and families

To minimise the risk posed by toxic or dangerous products, ADCC will:

- choose the least hazardous chemical for the job
- securely store all dangerous equipment and undiluted toxic products in their original labelled containers in the laundry or supply shed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- ensure that all under bench storage cupboards are fitted with child safety locks
- ensure that staff dilute all cleaning products in the laundry in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- store diluted cleaning products in clearly labelled spray bottles (not drink bottles) in above bench labelled storage cupboards which are inaccessible to children at all times
- ensure hazardous chemicals, substances or equipment are disposed of in accordance to the manufacturer's instructions,

OH&S regulations, local council regulation or Department of Health advice

- properly discard empty bulk storage containers used for chemicals (these are not to be reused)
- keep the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheets (providing information about the risks, controls for prevention of exposure and first aid measures) in the laundry, kitchen, office and in all of the children's rooms so that staff can have immediate access to the information in an emergency
- conduct and record regular audits of toxic or dangerous product to ensure they are stored correctly and have not passed their expiry date, and
- seek medical advice immediately if poisoning or potentially hazardous ingestion, inhaled, skin or eye exposure has occurred by calling **Poisons Information Line on 13 11 26 or call an ambulance on 000.**

The **Hazardous products policy** is linked to the *National Early Years Learning Framework*.

Outcome 1: children have a strong sense of identity
Children feel safe, secure and supported

Date Approved by the COM 16 February 2011

Next review date February 2013

Key Resource Documents

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), *Staying Healthy in Childcare* 4th Edition 2005.

Other Resource Documents

Samways, Louise. *The Non-Toxic House*. McCulloch Publishing/Green Press.

Imming, Jo. *The Toxic Playground*. Total Environment Centre.

Code of Practice. *Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods No.27*