

SECTION 3 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

3.8 Hazards and Dangerous Products Policy

Aim:

1. To ensure that all precautions are taken to provide the optimal safety for children and adults at The Gums Childcare Centre.
2. To ensure the safe use of toxic and dangerous products so that children, staff and families are protected from the risks of these substances.
3. To ensure that children's safety is a top priority and that hazards are identified and dealt with promptly and efficiently

Background

Accidental poisoning is the second most common hospital admission for child injuries in Australia and 75% of accidental poisonings are attributed to medications. Other main agents of poisoning in children are household chemicals such as pesticides, bleach, cleaning products and cosmetics.

Childcare Centres must be particularly careful with the storage and use of toxic and dangerous products because of their possible effects 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.

Products used at The Gums Childcare Centre

The Gums Childcare Centre strives to maintain high hygiene standards by using the following toxic products for cleaning:

- Lemon-brite Laundry Powder
- Nappy Wash – Oxy Clean
- Automatic Dishwashing Powder
- Solo Pak glass cleaner
- Hygenex System Gentle Lotion hand cleanser (wall dispenser soap)
- Septone Dishmate (rinse aid)
- Germex – Earth Renewable
- Pot Wash
- Air Freshner – Solo Pak
- Mops
- Orange Power- Sticky spot & goo dissolver
- Bosistos Eucalyptus Oil
- Dishbrite-Septone
- Clorox Gumption

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- Livingstone Sorbolene Cream
- Happy Goat Goats Milk Hand Wash
- Selleys Original Sugar Soap
- EXP Kleen Bleach
- Crème Cleanser (Chesser Chemicals)
- LUX Flakes
- QV Wash
- Solosan

Other Chemicals Used at The Gums

- Paints
- Glue
- Doterra Oils

Material Safety Data (MSD) sheets are kept in the laundry for all of these products.

Minimising the risk to children, staff and families

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

1. Choose the least hazardous chemical, product or equipment for the job.
2. Securely store all dangerous equipment and undiluted toxic products in their original labelled containers in the laundry or in the locked cupboard under the sink in the kitchen, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
3. Store diluted cleaning products in clearly labelled spray bottles (not drink bottles) on labelled areas of bench tops that are inaccessible to children at all times.
4. Ensure hazardous chemicals, substances or equipment is disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and WH&S regulations.
5. Properly discard empty bulk storage containers used for chemicals (these are not to be re-used).
6. 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 so that staff can have immediate access to the information in an emergency.
7. Conduct and record regular audits of toxic or dangerous products to ensure they are stored correctly and have not passed their expiry date, and
8. 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

Minimising the risk to children, staff and families

To minimise the risk posed by hazards, staff will:

1. Ensure that emergency numbers are located by each phone.
2. Ensure that walk ways and exits are kept clear at all times.
3. Ensure that children do not have access to any power points.
4. Use the *Hazard Identification Reports* to report any faulty or broken equipment so that it can be fixed or removed promptly.
5. Ensure that children are supervised at all times.
6. Ensure that mats and floor surfaces are of a non-slip material and are not a tripping hazard for children or adults.

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7. Use the yellow wet floor signs when necessary.
8. Staff must report all safety issues including near misses and accidents to the Director / Assistant Director.

The Director or Assistant Director will:

1. Ensure that safety glass is fitted throughout the building.
2. Ensure that all fences comply with licensing regulations and that all gates are fitted with locks.
3. Ensure that all electrical appliances and electrical cords are checked visually for faults/fraying regularly by staff, and removed from the room if faults/fraying becomes evident.
4. Be the Workplace Health and Safety officer and will have completed WH&S Responsible Officer Training.
5. Be responsible for the maintenance of the Centre's first aid kits
6. Ensure the roster allows for adequate staff supervision of children at all times.

SOURCE: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) *Staying Healthy in Childcare* 4th Edition
OH&S Act
GUILD risk management