



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Storage of Chemical Substances and Equipment Policy

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1. Introduction

Accidental poisoning is the second most common hospital admission for child injuries in Australia, and 75% of accidental poisonings are attributed to medications. The most common accidental poisonings involve respiratory and cough medications, antihistamines, paracetamol, iron tablets, benzodiazepines, and eucalyptus and other vaporiser oils. Other main agents of poisoning in children are household chemicals, especially pesticides including snail bait and mothballs, bleach and other cleaners, detergents, solvents, petroleum and kerosene and cosmetics. Many of these chemical products are routinely used in the home and are potentially hazardous, either by ingestion, inhalation or skin contact. Pesticides and volatile chemicals such as solvents are easily inhaled. www.chw.edu.au/posions/

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all Children's Services operated by Coast Services Group Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Coast Community Connections LTD) and our employees. This applies to Early Childhood Programs, Occasional Care, Out Of School Hours Care and Vacation Care programs and services.

3. Policy

Children's Services Educators will ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

4. Procedures and Implementation

Children's Services will:

- 4.1 Choose chemicals or medicines with child resistant lids or caps.
- 4.2 Ensure that all dangerous cleaning materials, disinfectants, poisonous and other dangerous substances and medications are kept in a child resistant container that is labeled with a description of its contents and directions for their use and MSD sheets are available.
- 4.3 Ensure medications are stored in their original labeled container and not transferred to any other container.
- 4.4 Have storage facilities that are inaccessible to children for the following types of items:
 - all cleaning materials, including detergents marked *'keep out of the reach of children'*;
 - disinfectants;
 - poisonous and other dangerous substances;
 - dangerous tools and equipment;
 - toiletries;
 - medications;
 - emergency medical equipment and drugs;
 - Sharp or jagged objects that pose a hazard to children.

- 4.5 Store pesticides, herbicides, solvents, petroleum or kerosene in a locked facility, cupboard, shed or garage.
- 4.6 Ensure storage containers used for chemicals are not re-used and are properly discarded when empty.
- 4.7 Have storage facilities that are secure and inaccessible to children for any tool or equipment that is operated by an engine or any tool or equipment that poses a possible hazard to children.
- 4.8 Ensure that if any of the above substances need to be refrigerated, they are stored in a child resistant container within the refrigerator.
- 4.9 Seek medical advice immediately if poisoning or potentially hazardous ingestion, inhaled, skin or eye exposure has occurred, or call the Poisons Information Line on 131126, or call an Ambulance, dial 000.
- 4.10 In case of any Children's Services Educators, child or other person injured by a chemical, substance, tool or piece of equipment, initiate your emergency, medical and first aid procedures.
- 4.11 In any major emergency involving a hazardous chemical, tool or piece of equipment, a hazardous gas or a fire or explosion hazard, call the emergency services, dial 000 and any person or authority as required by the Regulation or Guidelines.
- 4.12 Ensure children are not in the possession of medications, dangerous item in clothing and bags.
- 4.13 Maintaining up to date listing of chemicals & MSDS on our Enable HR Portal.

Other related policies and procedures

WHS Policy

Forms and Records

MSDS Sheets