**Cleaning and maintaining the environment**

**INTRODUCTION** -Children have the right to an education in an environment that provides for their health and safety. Good cleaning and maintance of the environment ensures that illness and unintentional injuries are avoided. Environmental responsibility also encompasses also environmental responsibility also encompasses the cleaning and maintenance of the education and care service in ways that are sustainable and environmentally friendly

**GOALS** - What are we going to do?

• Follow procedures and schedules that ensure the buildings, premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.

• Promote awareness of environmental sustainability through daily practices and information sharing.

• Involve children in discussions about health and safety issues and support children to develop Guidelines to keep the environment safe for all.

• Encourage eco-friendly practices and encourage staff, children and families to use chemical free Options for cleaning.

**STRATEGIES** - How will it be done?

**Approved Provider will:**

• Ensure that written policies and procedures regarding child safe environments are developed.

• Develop systems to ensure that daily checks and risk assessments of the environment are documented and that where repairs, cleaning or maintenance issues are identified, they are attended to promptly.

**The Nominated Supervisor will:**

• Develop systems to ensure that the daily cleaning of the service is carried out to a

Satisfactory standard.

 • Ensure that educators are familiar with policies related to cleaning and maintaining safe environments for children.

• Ensure that daily checks and risk assessments of the environment are

Conducted and documented

• Respond to any identified risks, repairs, cleaning or maintenance issues promptly.

• Support educators to research and consider alternative and sustainable cleaning options and

 Arrange for regular professional development to ensure a clean and safe environment for children.

**Educators will:**

• Ensure that cleaning duties do not compromise care and supervision of children at any

time.

• Identify when the building, premises, furniture or equipment require cleaning or maintenance. The identified issue will be dealt with immediately. This will be done by cleaning as required or by removing the damaged furniture or equipment to be repaired or discarded as decided by the nominated supervisor and the approved provider. The educator will complete required documentation and refer this to the nominated supervisor for attention.

• Involve children in discussions about health and safety issues and support children to develop guidelines to keep the environment safe for all.

• Role model good cleaning practices for the children and encourage children to be involved in the Cleaning of the environment where appropriate.

* Support children to have an active role in caring for their environment and to contribute to a sustainable future.

• Be responsible for spot cleaning the education and care service to ensure cleanliness and hygiene standards are maintained throughout the day.

• Seek to minimise the use of chemicals in the education and care environment.

• Research natural cleaning alternatives for use in the education and care environment. Natural or chemical-free options that are sensitive to the needs of educators and children with allergies will be utilised when possible.

• Consider sustainable practice when they are cleaning. They will reflect on their practices and access professional development, journals and the Internet for more ideas on eco-friendly cleaning options.

• Use spray and wipe for daily cleaning of tables, nappy change surfaces and general spills both indoors and outside. The spray will bestored in a labelled spray bottle out of reach of children.

* Educators will wash mouthed toys in hot soapy water, and record when toys have been cleaned in the toy cleaning check list.

**Aim to minimise waste by**:

»Encouraging recyclable materials to be placed in labelled recycling containers rather than garbage

bins.

» Recycling food scraps at meal and snack times. Children and educators can place food scraps into these containers which will then be placed in composting or worm farm containers. The kitchen will have recycling for educators to use.

**EVALUATION**

The education and care service is well cleaned and maintained to support children’s health and safety. Children and educators work cooperatively to care for the environment in a sustainable manner. The education and care environment reflects sustainable practices, ‘Green Cleaning’ and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn

together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations: 103, 168

Links to National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.1.3,

2.1.4, 3.1.2, 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2

acknowledgement to

* Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW).

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

•Education and Care Services National Regulations

• Guide to the national quality standard 3

•Guide to the education and care services national law and the education and care services national regulations 2011

• The NSW work health and safety act 2011 and the NSW work health and safety regulation 2011

• Staying healthy in childcare- fourth addition sources

• NSW Department of Environment and Heritage

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www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/

EasyCleaning.htm

• Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

* www.environment.gov.au

• Clean and Green: Natural Cleaning Formulas by Loretta Wallace \_ - -www.nourishedmagazine.com.au/blog/articles/

clean-and-green-natural-cleaning-formulas

• Health and Safety in Children’s Centres: Model Policies and Practices

(2nd ed.) [www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/\_assets/main/documents/childcare\_model\_policies.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/_assets/main/documents/childcare_model_policies.pdf)

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This policy is to be reviewed every two years or when information changes