

## **MINIMISING USE OF TOXIC &/OR DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

### **PURPOSE:**

To ensure a system is in place that monitors the use and safe handling of toxic and or dangerous products whilst allowing children to continue to explore their environment safely and uninhibited. Secondly, to remain committed to minimising the use of toxic or dangerous products where possible without jeopardising the hygiene standards of the centre.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

Following directions given by Material Safety Data Sheets we research products available to us and aim to use products that have a low Dangerous Goods Class rating and that are promoted as having less impact on our environment. The recent introduction of Neutraclean as our main cleaning agent was chosen as it is a detergent that was recommended as having no health effects for chronic exposure and ingredients that were non carcinogenic according to Worksafe Australia.

If we deem a product absolutely necessary to maintaining our Health and Hygiene policies and procedures, we ensure that staff are briefed fully on the safe use and the potential risks of such products.

Supporting our Occupational Health and Safety procedures when considering dangerous products we follow the simple steps of identifying the hazard, assessing any associated risks and then work towards controlling the risk. General advice on this area forms part of our policy and procedures:

- Do not expose children to the fumes or sprays of dangerous products
- Do not permit smoking in any areas of the service
- Do not consume hot drinks in areas accessible to children
- Display simple warning signs and procedures for safe storage of dangerous products
- Minimise the use of toxic products without compromising hygiene
- Conduct and record regular audits of stored chemicals to ensure they are stored correctly and have not passed their expiry
- Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets from manufacturers that provide information about the risks and risk management of dangerous products.
  - S. Tansey NCAC Fact sheet

Developed: August, 2006 by M Duffy-Fagan  
Source: NCAC Fact sheet "Safety in Children's Services"  
Supporting Documents: OHS Manual, Risk Assessment Continuous Improvement Register, First Aid Injury Management Register, Equipment & Substance Register, MSDS Folders