

INTRODUCTION

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

OVERALL GOALS – What are we going to do?

- Follow procedures that ensure that buildings, grounds, 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
- Encourage eco-friendly practices and minimal use of chemicals for cleaning and pest control

OVERALL STRATEGIES – How will it be done?**BDCS will:**

- Ensure that services are cleaned professionally at the end of each day
- Develop systems to ensure that checks and risk assessments of the environment are completed regularly and documented, with identified risks, cleaning or maintenance issues being addressed promptly.
- Promote and provide for the use of environmentally friendly cleaning options within the services

Directors will:

- Ensure daily cleaning is carried out satisfactorily
- Ensure that staff are familiar with and adhere to policies and procedures regarding maintaining safe and clean environments for children
- Adopt environmentally practices within the service, such as using environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Incorporate environmental awareness into programming for children where appropriate, to develop the children's awareness of caring for their environment.

Staff will:

- Ensure that cleaning duties do not infringe on the provision of adequate supervision at any time
- Identify and report any cleaning or maintenance issues to the director, or attend to the issue where it is of a minor nature and easily addressed (e.g. a spilled drink)
- Involve children in discussions about health and safety issues
- Role model good cleaning and environmental practices for the children
- Be responsible for spot cleaning of the environment throughout the day, using minimal chemicals and employing eco-friendly cleaning products wherever possible.

- Minimise waste by using reduce and reuse principals as another opportunity to role model good environmental practices for children.

Links to other policies: Child Protection, Interactions with Children, Hygiene and Infection Control, Infectious Diseases, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness, Critical Incidents, Supervision, Workplace Health and Safety

Links to National Quality Standard: 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 3.1.2, 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 103, 168

Policy Revision History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Authorised By</i>	<i>Description of Amendments</i>	<i>Sections affected</i>
Jan 2021	P. Ritchie – GM		

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