

The Kinder Garden



Equipment Policy

Aim

All equipment & toys purchased for the service will meet Australian Safety Standards & be appropriate to the developmental stages, interests and culture of the children in care. Toys of war are considered inappropriate to the service's aim of providing a safe and caring environment.

All educators and other staff members will be diligent to ensure that all equipment and toys are kept in a thoroughly safe, clean and hygienic condition and in good repair at all times, and stored in a safe manner. Children will be taught to use equipment appropriately.

In consultation with educators and other staff, the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will determine which equipment is most appropriate taking into account; durability, easy maintenance, cost, benefit to the children's program.

Legislative Requirements

Australian Standards; Fair Trading Act 1987 (NSW)
Competition and Consumer Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Who is affected by this policy?

Children
Families
Staff
Management

Implementation

- The Approved Provider will be responsible for the purchase of all new items of equipment.
- Educators and staff input on compiling a prioritised list of items of equipment will be sought at least twice a year.
- Parents/guardians will be invited to provide information about the toys/activities their children enjoy at the time of enrolment and at intervals thereafter.
- All new equipment will be checked against Australian Safety Standards.
- Children will be carefully introduced to new toys & pieces of equipment and taught how to use and care for them appropriately.
- Equipment that should only be used under supervision will be stored in a safe place.
- Wading or paddling pools will only be used under the direct supervision of staff members. When not in use this equipment will be emptied and stored in such a manner that it cannot collect water.
- Children will only use a trampoline whilst under the direct supervision of staff members.
- Equipment will be checked regularly by the staff to ensure it is in a clean and safe condition.
- The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will advise the staff and parent committee about the purchase of new equipment and ensure a risk assessment is carried out.
- All equipment purchased for the service will be within budget limitations.

Further reading:

Kidsafe Playground Safety Information Sheets
<http://www.kidsafesw.org/information-sheets/playground-safety/>

- A Risk Management Approach
- AS4685: Main Changes to the Standard
- AS4685 Impact Areas Ready Reckoner
- Bike Tracks
- Falling Space and Impact Area
- Fencing Playspaces
- Mounds for Play
- Moveable Equipment
- Moveable Equipment Safety Checklist
- Natural Playspaces

- Outdoor Gyms
- Playground Safety Management System
- Playground Surfacing
- Portable Mats
- Protection Against Falling
- Safe Play for Backyards
- Sandpits
- Shade in Playspaces
- Slides
- Stepping Stones
- The Importance of Research for Playground Development
- Timber in Playspaces
- Trampolines
- Tree Climbing

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Choice www.choice.com.au Retrieved: 19th December 2016

Product Safety Australia www.productsafety.gov.au Retrieved: 19th December 2016

Product Safety Recalls Australia www.recalls.gov.au Retrieved: 19th December 2016

WorkCover www.workcover.nsw.gov.au Retrieved: 19th December 2016

Kid Safe NSW Fact Sheets 2015 www.kidsafensw.org Retrieved: 19th December 2016

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: December 2016

Date for next review: December 2017