



Toy Safety Policy (PE 1)

Policy Rationale

Cooks Hill Preschool will minimize risk of child accidents, injuries and illnesses involving toys and toy boxes.

Children should only be provided with toys that can be used safely, are age appropriate, stable, durable and easy to clean. It is important for staff to be aware that some unsafe toys have caused serious child injuries and death.

Strategies, Practices and Procedures

When supplying or buying toys or toy boxes for children in care, the Preschool should;

- Check all toys for poor design and manufacture, ensure they are non-flammable and there are no choking hazards such as cords/thread/ribbons or small pieces that can break off.
- Check for sharp edges, rough surfaces or brittle plastic as they can cause cuts and splinters.
- Buy washable, non-toxic toys.
- Check for ventilation before buying masks, helmets and tents.
- Not provide projectile toys as they can be very dangerous.
- Be wary of toys that make loud noises as they can be harmful to hearing.
- Ensure that all toys are age appropriate, including ride-on toys. Ensure they are stable, have effective brakes, are regularly checked and maintained.
- Read the labels on new toys. "Not suitable for children under three" means there may be small parts which could be swallowed. Check that there are no gaps or holes which could trap a child's finger.
- Be aware that it is safer to use toy crates without lids or with lightweight removable lids rather than toy chests. Only use toy boxes that are designed not to close on top of children, cannot be locked and ensure there are ventilation holes in case a child crawls inside the box.
- When tidying up or washing toys check toys regularly for loose, detachable or broken parts that are choking hazards – anything that can fit into a 35mm canister can choke a child under three years old. Discard broken toys if they are not repairable.
- Families are instructed to carefully supervise any accompanying children aged 0-3 years, to ensure their access to age-inappropriate equipment is limited.

Links to Legislation & National Quality Standards

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 103, 105.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA (2011): 2.3.2, 3.1.1

References

- The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne: Toy Safety for Children
http://www.rch.org.au/safetycentre/fact_sheets/Toy_Safety_for_Children/
- Toy Safety: Australian Toy Association. <http://www.austoy.com.au/toy-safety>
- Product Safety Australia: Toys
<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/971502>

Links to other Policies

- Child Safe Environment (PE 2)
- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness (CHS 8)

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