



# Dubbo West Public School Preschool

## Procedure: Providing a Child Safe Environment - Chemical Safety

### Links to relevant legislation:

Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations  
Education and Care Services (clause 70)

### Links to National Quality Standard:

Element 2.3.2

### Links to EYLF:

### Date to be reviewed:

July 2020

### Introduction:

Accidental poisoning is the second most common hospital admission for child injuries in Australia. Many of these chemical products are routinely used in children's centres and are potentially hazardous, either by ingestion, inhalation or skin contact. Pesticides and volatile chemicals such as solvents are easily inhaled and should be avoided where children are present.

### Aims:

- Dubbo West Public School Preschool will protect staff, children, families and visitors from the risks associated with chemical products, medicines, other dangerous substances
- To reduce the risk of chemical poisoning.

### Procedures:

- Staff will ensure that all dangerous cleaning materials, disinfectants, poisonous and other dangerous substances and medications are kept out of reach of children.
- The following items should be kept in secure storage facilities that are inaccessible to children:
  - all cleaning materials, including detergents and disinfectants
  - poisonous and other dangerous substances
  - dangerous tools and equipment
  - toiletries
  - medications (kept in a childproof container and refrigerated, if necessary)

- Staff will choose the least hazardous chemical or product for the job at hand.
- Staff will ensure that all dangerous cleaning materials (including detergents), poisons and other dangerous substances and medications are stored in their original labelled container and not transferred to any other container. Staff will not reuse containers once they are empty and will dispose of them properly.
- Ensure that if the original container for hazardous substances does not have a child resistant lid, the container is kept in a locked place, which is secure and inaccessible to children.
- Household items such as flyspray, detergents and washing liquids will be kept out of reach of children in locked spaces, with appropriate signage.
- Not store industrial chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, solvents, petroleum or kerosene on the Preschool premises unless contained in a separate secure outdoor shed, separate from the children's play areas and environment. They should not be stored at ground level and not stored with organic materials such as fertiliser.
- Ensure that if any of the above substances need to be refrigerated, they are stored in a labelled child resistant container, preferably in a separate compartment or in a part of the refrigerator inaccessible to children.
- If only normal domestic or commercial products and quantities are used or stored, a chemicals register will be kept, including the substances SDS .
- The laundry and kitchen cupboard will have the following sign:  
*Warning there are potentially dangerous materials stored in this room Please keep door locked at all times. Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26*
- Staff will seek medical advice immediately if poisoning or potentially hazardous ingestion, inhaled, skin or eye exposure has occurred, or call the Poisons Information Line on 131126, or call an ambulance, dial 000.