Hills Grammar

Hazardous Plants

Statement

The ECEC aims to minimise the risk to children in relation to hazardous plants. The Nominated Supervisor will liaise with Maintenance or other community experts when choosing and planting new plants. ECEC will also request that Maintenance regularly checks the outdoor areas where children have regular access to outdoor plants and shrubs.

Rationale

The ECEC will ensure that any vegetation in the children's play area is identified and maintained to ensure that it does not present a hazard to the children.

Strategies

To minimise ECEC children coming into contact with hazardous plants:

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Organise for Maintenance to do checks in each of the outdoor environments and remove hazardous plants or shrubs as required.
- Check that plants that are brought into ECEC to be planted are not hazardous.
- Notify the regulatory authority of any serious incident as soon as possible and within 24 hours

Educators will:

- Contact Maintenance to remove hazardous plants or shrubs that are unknown.
- Before any new plants come in ECEC, educators with check with the Nominated supervisor to make sure they are safe for children.
- Families, visitors or educators are encouraged to report any plants that maybe harmful to children to the Nominated Supervisor.
- Refer to relevant Poisonous and Harmful Plants fact sheets.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Teach children not to eat anything from a bush or plant.
- Keep the Poison Information phone number 13 11 26 near the phone.

Symptoms of poisoning:

- Vomiting
- Stomach cramps
- Burning to the mouth
- Irregular heart beat
- Convulsions

First Aid:

- Call 000 if a child is having difficulty breathing, is unconscious or having a seizure.
- Call the School Nurse as soon as practicably possible.
- Ring Poison Information Line 13 11 26.
- Call the parent / guardian as soon as practicably possible.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

The Children's Hospital at Westmead www.chw.edu.au

Hazardous Plants Fact Sheet https://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/fact-sheets/poisonous-or-harmful-plants

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.