

Sand Pit Policy

NQS

QA1	2.1.3	Healthy lifestyle - Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.
QA2	2.2.1	Supervision - At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA3	3.1.2	Upkeep - Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.
	3.2.1	Inclusive environment - Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
	3.2.2	Resources support play-based learning - Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.

National Regulations

Regs	168	Child safe environment policies and procedures
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Aim

Our Service recognises that sand pit play encourages children to develop their cognitive, language, physical, social and emotional skills in both planned and spontaneous activities. It assists children to develop a sense of agency whether they play independently or in collaboration with their peers while also promoting physical activity. We will ensure our sand pit is always hygienic and safe for all users.

Related Policies

Animal and Pet Policy

Incident, Injury, Illness or Trauma Policy

Physical Activity Promotion Policy

Physical Environment (Workplace Safety, Learning and Administration) Policy

Implementation

To ensure our sand pit is always a safe and hygienic place for children to play and learn the Nominated Supervisor will ensure:

- our sandpit has adequate drainage and can comfortably accommodate the number of children at our service. Adequate drainage includes the installation of a drainage membrane separating the sand from the gravel sub base or agriculture pipes.
- we use timber which has not been treated with Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA).
- we use washed beach or river sand. Builders' /brick sand is not suitable.
- the sand is at least 500mm deep, and replenish the sand when it drops 100mm below the top edge of the sandpit.
- any natural elements we may incorporate into the sandpit (eg boulders) are positioned so they are stable, cannot be moved and have their sharp edges removed or rounded off. Boulders should be large enough to sit on or be used as building platforms.
- the sandpit is adequately shaded when used by children, and that our shade structures can be removed so sunshine can disinfect the sand.
- we clean the sand by regularly exposing it to sunshine and fresh air which are the most effective disinfectants.
- we rake sand pits before use and at regular intervals each day and carefully remove and dispose of any contaminated sand or dangerous/ foreign matter such as sharp objects or animal or human faeces and urine which could cause illness or infection in children or educators.
- we turn the sand over monthly to aerate it.
- change the sand at least annually but preferably every 6 months.
- remove toys from the sandpit at the end of each day.
- cover sand pits closely when they are not in use to prevent contamination with animal faeces and sharp or dangerous objects.
- ensure children and adults wash their hands with soap and water after playing in the sandpit.

The Nominated Supervisor will prepare a roster of educators who have responsibility for raking and turning the sand, and removing toys and covering the sand pit at the end of each day.

If sand is contaminated by animal or human faeces, blood or other body fluids an educator who has been supervising the children will immediately remove all children from the sandpit and then:

- Use a shovel and dispose of the contaminated sand in a plastic bag. Educators will wear suitable protective clothing eg gloves.
- Rake remaining sand at regular intervals during the day and leave exposed to the sun.
- Change sand completely if it is contaminated extensively.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard

Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition 2012 NHMRC

Sandpits Fact Sheet 2013 Kidsafe NSW

Timber in Playspaces Fact Sheet 2013 Kidsafe NSW

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Management
 - Employees
 - Families
 - Interested Parties
- **Last reviewed: 25th March 2024** **Date for next review: 25th March 2025**