

FACS022 – Crèche – Dangerous Products Plants and Vermin Policy

1. POLICY CERTIFICATION

Policy title:	Crèche – Dangerous Products Plants and Vermin Policy
Policy number:	FACS022
Category:	Policy
Classification:	FACS
Status:	Approved (26/06/2013 OCM)

2. POLICY PRINCIPLES

The Roper Gulf Regional Council has a duty to ensure the health and wellbeing of all children, parents and Childcare Educators enrolled at the crèche operated under Roper Gulf Regional Council. This policy minimises the risk associated with dangerous products, plants and vermin through outlining the safe work practises required to undertake matters involving such substances products and pests.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Roper Gulf Regional Council recognises that young children have limited understanding of the potential dangers of products, plants and objects in the environment. Childcare Educators and parents/ guardians have a responsibility to ensure children are protected from contact with these unsafe materials. Therefore, the Crèche operated under Roper Gulf Regional Council will follow the recommendations and guidelines from recognised health and safety authorities regarding the handling, labeling, storage and use of these items to minimise any risk to children’s safety while they are at the Crèche.

4. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to Crèches run under Roper Gulf Regional Council.

5. DEFINITIONS

Crèche	is a day care centre where child care educator will take care of children in place of their parents
RGSC	Roper Gulf Regional Council

6. PRINCIPLES

- During their orientation, all Childcare Educators are made aware of the need to strictly adhere to the contents of this Policy, and the Policy is discussed during team meetings, at Childcare Educators appraisals and as and when required.
- The Crèche maintains an up-to-date list of all chemicals and cleaning agents used in the Crèche. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), together with any additional first-

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aid instructions required, are maintained for each item, and kept wherever potentially hazardous materials are stored in the Crèche. The MSDS are filed in a way that Childcare Educators can readily retrieve the information in an emergency. In such emergency, Childcare Educators follow the procedures detailed on the particular MSDS. In addition, Childcare Educators seek advice from the Poisons Information Crèche whose number is clearly written beside the Crèche telephone.

- All potentially hazardous materials are kept in locked child-proof cupboards and, wherever possible, beyond the reach of children, when not being used. Only frequently used items are stored in the rooms that children access.
- Clear warning signs are displayed wherever potentially hazardous materials are stored. As part of the program, Childcare Educators discuss with the children various safety issues relating to hazardous materials, poisonous plants and other dangers such as vermin.
- Wherever possible, hazardous products are kept in their original labeled container. When decanted, the alternative container is clearly labeled with the product name as written on the supplier's label, and the date of decanting. Childcare Educators check all labels regularly for legibility.
- When using any hazardous products, all Childcare Educators follow the instructions on the labels. Childcare Educators members who cannot understand the instructions seek guidance from another Childcare Educator
- Hazardous products and chemicals are disposed of in strict accordance with the instructions on the labels.
- Childcare Educators conduct daily safety checks of the building and outdoor play areas for foreign objects, vermin, sharps, possible harmful plants or damaged equipment.
- The Crèche is treated by a pest controller licensed by the relevant state health authority, when necessary. The Crèche maintains a record of the chemicals used by the pest controller and the frequency of use.
- The Crèche's Administration of Medication Policy contains guidelines for parents when bringing medications into the Crèche, and for the Childcare Educators handling and storing these medications.
- Safety plugs are fitted to all power points. Electrical appliances are inaccessible to children. All electrical appliances are appropriately 'tested and tagged' annually.
- Childcare Educators ensure that plastic wrapping is stored away from children and used and disposed of in areas which are inaccessible to children.
- The Crèche minimises the use of plastic garbage bags, and these are stored inaccessible to children.
- Poisonous and hazardous plants are identified and action taken in accordance with advice from the Poisons Information Crèche (Telephone 13 11 26). Childcare Educators intentionally teach children of the danger posed by these plants.

