



2.22 TOBACCO, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Purpose Statement

Windermere is committed to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children accessing early childhood education and care programs.

A smoke, drug and alcohol free environment enhances the health, safety and wellbeing needs of children and the capacity of educators to educate and care for children. Environmental tobacco smoke is particularly dangerous to children due to the size of their lungs, making the hazardous substances in smoke more harmful.

Scope

This policy applies to educators, contractors, children, families and visitors.

Definitions

Illicit Drugs: drugs prohibited by law including illegal drugs such as cannabis, opiates, and certain types of stimulants.

Prescription drugs (medication): a drug that can be dispensed upon presentation of a medical prescription.

Policy Statement

THAT EDUCATION AND CARE FACILITIES ARE FREE FROM TOBACCO SMOKE, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WHILST CHILDREN ARE IN CARE.

Procedures

General

1. Educators, family members and visitors are prohibited from smoking on the property whilst children are in care.
2. Educators, family members and visitors are prohibited from drinking alcohol or taking illicit drugs whilst children are in care.
3. Parents, family members or relatives of children enrolled at the service will not be permitted to smoke, drink or consumer drugs on the premises.
4. Any person affected by alcohol or drugs is not permitted to supervise or remain in the presence of a child in care. It is the educator's responsibility to ask the person concerned to leave the education and care environment immediately and report the incident to the coordination unit.
5. Educators requiring prescription drugs to treat an injury, illness or on-going medical condition must provide the Co-ordination Unit with a medical certificate signed by a treating medical practitioner. This certificate must confirm the educator's ability to care for children whilst taking the drug as prescribed.



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6. It is the responsibility of the educator to notify the Coordination Unit immediately if they start a new medication or alter existing medications (i.e. medication dose). Any change in medications requires presentation of an updated medical certificate signed by a treating medical practitioner.

Advocacy

1. Healthy living habits will be discussed with children and opportunities explored to educate children regarding the harmful effects of tobacco smoking, drug and alcohol use.
2. Educators will be informed of education programs and support services (i.e. Quitline) via Newsletters and supervision visits.
3. Coordination Unit staff will be positive role models and actively monitor all Family Day Care environments to ensure the safety of children.

Relevant Standards/Legislation

- National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care Services including:
 - Education and Care Services National Law 2011
 - Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Related Policies & Links

- The Cancer Council Australia
- Quitline