

SAND PIT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

Sandpits are a great way to enhance children's holistic development providing opportunities for children to meet other children and engage in sensory, symbolic and physical play. They are also a potential foundation of infection and need to be well maintained and kept hygienic.

There are no specific laws or Australian Standards relating to the construction or maintenance of sandpits however, to ensure best practice and maintaining a child safe environment our service will follow a management procedure and complete relevant risk assessments.

Working in conjunction with the *Physical Environment Policy*, this procedure ensures the sandpit is a safe and hygienic place for the children to explore.

Education and Care Services National Law or Regulations (R. 84, 99, 157, 158, 160, 173, 176, 177 and S162(a)) NQS QA 2: Element 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.1.3 Health practices and procedures
Related Policy: Physical Environment Policy

SAND PIT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES				
1	An appropriate size sandpit which is dependent on the number of children using the service. Kidsafe (2017) recommend the general guidelines is:			
		Number of Children	Size of Sandpit	
		20	15 square metres	
		40	30 square metres	
		60	40 square metres	
2	Well drained, keeping it as dry as possible			
3	Constructed with edges that are not sharp or dangerous to children (use timber logs or paved areas)			
4	Covered with a tightfitting animal and vermin proof cover when not in use to prevent contamination from animal faeces and protect children from sharp or dangerous objects (for example, a shade cloth can be used)			
5	Checked daily for faeces, rubbish, needles and sharp objects which will be removed and disposed of appropriately			
6	Raked at regular intervals each day to remove any dangerous or foreign matter			
7	Exposed to sunshine and fresh air which act as a regular disinfectant			
8	Regularly sanitised by raking warm soapy water through the sand			
9	Kept at a safe depth of a minimum 500mm and top up at least annually			
10	Filled with appropriate sand that meets health and safety requirements such as washed beach or river sand which is recommended. (Please note that builder or brick sand is not recommended.)			

11	Adequately shaded with deciduous trees or a shade structure	
12	Washed with tap water if it not regularly washed by the rain	
13	Cleaned and disinfected in the event of an accident in the sandpit (or faeces from an animal is found)	
14	Free from toys at the end of each day	
15	It is important for children and educators to wash their hands before and after using the sandpit.	

SAND PIT CLEANING

In the event of the sand being contaminated by animal or human faeces, blood or body fluid, for example a child going to the toilet in the sand, the sandpit must be evacuated and cleaned immediately.

1	Wearing disposable gloves, remove the object with a shovel and dispose within a sealed plastic bag	
2	Remove a section of sand around the area of contamination and place into a sealed plastic bag	
3	Disinfect the whole sandpit using a watering can, or spray bottle (mild detergent diluted in water)	
4	Rake the sandpit and allow to dry in the sun	
5	Wash hands thoroughly	
6	If the contamination is large, all sand should be removed and replaced.	

RISK ASSESSMENT

Consider the following when completing a risk assessment for the sandpit area.

1	Choking- ensure any object used in the sandpit is not a choking hazard. Small pieces of plastic may become detached from toys and be dangerous when placed in the mouth	
2	Infection- Bacteria from animals for example, cats and bandicoots can be a source of infection and are dangerous to children and adults.	
3	Sun safety- ensuring the sandpit has adequate shade to prevent children from becoming sunburnt from dangerous UV rays	
4	Bites and stings- sand pits may attract insects to nest in the sand. Keeping the sandpit dry and free from grass or weeds may assist. (Cinnamon is a natural bug repellent. Vinegar and water in a spray bottle is helpful to repel ants)	
5	Bumps and scratches- ensure there are no sharp objects in the sand which may cut or injury a child. Check the surrounds of the sandpit for wood splinters, sharp corners, loose nails.	