

Acorn Child Care Centres

Policies and Procedures

5



2.16 Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol - Centre

Background

Cigarette smoke contains toxins and chemicals known to be detrimental to health. Because children generally breathe

much more quickly than adults and their immune and respiratory systems are still developing, they are more at risk of

such illnesses as asthma, chest and sensory infections, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In addition, children

may not know nor have the physical ability to move away from cigarette smoke.

Research has also proven that drugs and alcohol impair judgment and awareness.

Adults are always to be role models for children in child care.

Policy statement

The Service provides a healthy and safe environment for children, employees, families and other visitors while on the

premises (i.e. the building, grounds and car parks).

Strategies and practices

☒ Staff, parents and any other visitors to the Service are not permitted to smoke on or adjacent to the premises, in

parking areas surrounding the building or within view of the children. QA 2.3.2

☒ 'No Smoking' signs are displayed in the entrance and or foyer area. QA 2.3.2

☒ No alcohol or any unlawful substance is consumed in any part of the premises at any time when children are at

the Service. QA 2.3.2

☒ Prescription medications such as asthma preventatives and treatment, and paracetamol are acceptable, but will

be managed in accordance with the Service's Administration of Medication Policy. QA 2.1.1, 2.3.2

☒ As part of their duty of care to ensure a healthy and safe environment for children, the educators inform the

Nominated Supervisor immediately of anyone on the premises that they suspect is affected by alcohol or drugs.

QA 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.2.2

Acorn Child Care Centres

Policies and Procedures



5

☒ The educators represent the Service in the community and, as such, are aware of the importance of not smoking

and consuming alcohol while wearing the Service's uniform out-of-hours.

☒ Any staff member who attends work under the influence of alcohol or drugs is relieved from duties immediately,

and risks disciplinary action which may result in dismissal. QA 7.1.5

Responsibilities of parents

☒ To refrain from smoking, and from bringing alcohol or prohibited drugs onto or near the premises or within sight

of children.

☒ To refrain from entering the premises while under the effects of alcohol or prohibited drugs.

Acorn Child Care Centres

Policies and Procedures

128

Links to other policies

☒ Administration of Medication Policy

☒ Educator Professionalism, Ethics and Reflection Policy

☒ Enrolment and Orientation Policy

☒ Excursion Policy

☒ Students, Volunteers and Visitors Policy

Sources, Further reading and useful websites

☒ Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

☒ Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011.

☒ Sids and Kids. (2009). Information Statement: Smoking.

<http://www.sidsandkids.org/wpcontent/uploads/Smoking.pdf> accessed 24 November 2013

☒ The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. (2008). Kids Health Info: Smoking and your child

http://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/handout/index.php?doc_id=11313 accessed 24 November 2013

☒ Cancer Council – <http://acrf.com.au/>

☒ National Health and Medical Research Council – <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

☒ OxyGen – <http://www.oxygen.org.au/>

Acorn Child Care Centres Policies and Procedures



5

☐ Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne – <http://www.rch.org.au/home/>

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