



Policy and Procedures Tobacco control

Purpose

The educators, staff and management acknowledge the importance of a smoke-free environment that contributes to good health and overall wellbeing.

This policy confirms our commitment to:

- ensure a smoke-free environment for children, families, educators, staff, volunteers and visitors
- encourage educators and staff to build on opportunistic learning moments with children
- Provide information to educators, staff and families about the health benefits of not smoking.

As a health promoting service we will provide a smoke-free environment for children, educators, staff and families through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment and developing community links and partnerships.

Policy statement

Background

The key to tobacco control in the early years is prevention. The most effective means of prevention is providing an early childhood environment that is supportive and protective of all children. Building resilience and developing social and emotional competencies should start early to enhance the potential for children to resist risky behaviours later on.

Whole service engagement

It is recognised that every member of the service impacts on the children's health and can contribute to creating a healthy, smoke free environment. All members of our service, including educators, staff, children, families and volunteers will be supported to meet this policy.

Definitions

Tobacco refers to the leaves of the **tobacco** plant that have been dried and processed for people to roll up and smoke

Resilience: the ability to bounce back from adversity in order to lead a healthy and fulfilling life.¹

Social and emotional competence: the ability to recognise and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships and handle challenging situations capably.²

¹School Drug Education and Road Aware. Challenges and Choices. Early Childhood Resource for resilience, drug and road safety education. Government of Western Australia, 2005

²Zins J E and Elias M J. Social and Emotional Learning in Safe and Sound: *An educational leader's guide to evidence-based social and emotional learning programs*. Developed by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, USA, 2003.



Procedures

Healthy policies

- Educators, staff, families and children are active participants in the development and implementation of the whole service tobacco policy.
- Educators, staff and families are provided with information about policy requirements.
- Policy on tobacco will be included in staff induction and orientation process.

Healthy physical environment

- The service provides a totally smoke-free environment. This means that there will be no smoking within 4 meters of our centres grounds
- There is Smoke-Free signage around the Centre that is visible and understood by the whole community.
- All service sanctioned events (both on and off premises), including excursions, fetes and celebrations are totally smoke-free.
- Compliance with the tobacco legislation is ensured with contract agreements with stakeholders, suppliers, providers of services, and users of service facilities.
- If external organisations use the premises, a formal agreement ensures the service premise are smoke-free.
- All authorised vehicles used in transporting children who are accessing our organisation are to be smoke free

Healthy social environment

- Staff who smoke are supported to quit or manage their smoking.
Staff and educators who do smoke are encouraged to take appropriate hygiene measures after smoking so that children are not exposed to second hand smoke. *(It is known that breathing in other people's tobacco smoke is dangerous to a non-smoker)*
- Resources about the health risks related to smoking and second-hand smoke are available to staff, families and community members, including information about accessing support services.
- As role models, educators, staff and families present smoke-free behaviour in line with this policy.
- Service contractors and visitors model smoke-free behaviour and refrain from smoking whilst in view of children.

Child Learning and education

- Tobacco education and related health messages are reinforced in opportunistic learning moments.
- Educators are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to provide opportunistic learning about tobacco education and prevention initiatives.
- Educators will guide age-appropriate, sensitive discussions about health issues related to Tobacco as opportunities arise.
- Professional development and resources are provided to educators and staff to help them guide age-appropriate, sensitive discussions about health issues related to Tobacco as opportunities arise.



Supporting, educators, staff and families

- Families, children, educators and staff are key partners in developing and supporting smoke-free initiatives.
- Educators who want to quit drinking or using other drugs are referred to appropriate support agencies
- Information and resources, about the health risks related to tobacco, ideas and practical strategies are provided to educators and staff on a regular basis to promote and support smoke-free behaviour in the service and at home.
- The service engages families in smoke-free initiatives.
- The service engages with families and children from culturally diverse backgrounds to ensure cultural values and expectations about tobacco are considered.

Community and Families partnerships

- The service engages local health professionals, services and other organisations to increase educator and staff capacity to deliver and promote tobacco education and prevention initiatives.
- Information about the health risks related to tobacco are available to families and community members, including information about accessing support services.
- The service does not have any partnerships with organisations that market or supply alcohol or Drugs.
- Partner organisations are required to comply with smoke-free strategies identified in the service's tobacco policy at service events on and off site.

Related legislation and policies

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for children)

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Service policies this may link to:

- Educational program
- Child safe environment
- Code of Conduct
- Drug and alcohol
- Supervision for children
- Occupational health and safety
- Staff health and well being

References:

- National Health and Medical Research Council
- *Staying Healthy - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th Edition*, November 2012



Legislations

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018*

BREACH OF THIS POLICY

Any educator or staff found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Version: 1	Endorsed By: CoM	Approved Date: 2018	Reviewed Date: March 2019
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<p>It is the responsibility for all staff to read understand this policy within 14 days of publication. All staff are to sign and date below once you have read and understood the content of this policy</p>		
Date:	Print Name	Signature