

Safety in the Home Policy (HS 11-13)

Rationale

Children and adults will experience an environment where they are kept healthy and safe from harm.

Purpose

To provide effective systems and consistent guidelines for maintaining health and safety.

Guidelines

In order to provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment for young children, KIDDZ Homebased Childcare will:

- Ensure that all educators applying to the service pass the Minimum Standards as stated in the Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008, using the Home Visit, Safety Check & Educator Checklist. (See appendix).
- At Induction, Educators are made aware of their responsibilities in relation to the Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008.
- Inspect every educator's home on an annual basis to ensure continued compliance.
- Educators will undertake a daily safety check and sign the daily form/dairy to confirm they have done this, so as to constantly re-assess the safety of their home. A daily checklist is kept in the Educator manual for reference.
- Educators and Visiting Teachers will identify any potential hazards and develop a plan to manage these.
- Visiting Teachers and Educators undertake a monthly safety check of specific regulations as identified in the monthly health and safety review check on Educa.
- If during a visit, a Visiting Teacher or parent/guardian sees a hazard, it will be identified to the educator with a plan to neutralise it within a given time frame. If the educator cannot rectify the situation, they will be given a written notification of a time limit, and if still not rectified then the service will not allow children to be in care there and/or may terminate the independent contractor agreement with the educator.

Environment

- Cleaning agents, medicines, poisons, and other hazardous materials are inaccessible to tamariki.
- All electrical sockets are covered, and cords are inaccessible to children.
- Adequate heating will be provided at not less than 18 degrees when measured 0.5 above the ground.
- Fireplaces/heaters are fitted with safety guards that are attached to the wall and meet the safety standards.
- Sharp knives are inaccessible, and dishwashers are closed/locked.
- Adequate natural lighting will be provided.
- Good cross ventilation in all bathrooms, toilets, and bedrooms.
- Hot water used by tamariki is to be set at 55 degrees or less. Educators should always test water before tamariki put their hands in it.
- First Aid kit is stored in a child proof container and is out of reach of children and meets requirements (list in manual.)
- Doors, windows, and other areas of glass are checked regularly. Doors that lead out onto the road are unable to be opened by a child.
- Outdoor areas are checked for vandalism, dangerous objects, and foreign materials e.g.; broken glass, garden tools, nails sticking out of wood etc.
- Sandpits are covered and checked daily when being used.
- BBQs are covered and the gas bottle removed.
- Outdoor play equipment is positioned to ensure it is away from fences, and other areas that could cause harm to children.
- Bodies of water must be covered or fenced off.
- Smoke detectors will be present in all homes.
- All pets will be kept clean and healthy and be able to be restrained.
- Educators will pick up any animal droppings daily and check outside areas regularly.
- Tamariki will wash their hands after any contact with animals.
- Educators will ensure that any traces of pest and vermin will be eradicated immediately.
- Fire and Earthquake drills are practiced and recorded every 3 months in line with the 'Health and Safety Review form' in the Educator Manual.
- There are quiet spaces for children to play and noise levels are monitored.
- There is a space (away from where food is stored, prepared, or eaten) where a sick child can be temporarily kept at a safe distance from other children (to prevent cross-infection) to lie comfortably and be supervised until the sick child can be collected and taken home.

Poisonous Plants

- During the initial Safety Inspection, the Visiting Teacher will supply information about poisonous pot plants and garden plants.
- All poisonous indoor plants are to be removed or made inaccessible to children.

- All identified outdoor plants are to be removed, if possible, otherwise securely fenced off or covered.
- Educators are to be provided with information as to the hazards and identification of poisonous plants.

Date Reviewed: September 2021

NELPS objectives 1, priority 1