

## 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. Our Service follows recommendations as outlined within Staying Healthy 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.

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, 103, 105, 108, 113, 114, 115, 158, 160) NQS QA 2: Element 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.1.3 Health practices and procedures

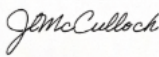
Related Policy: *Physical Environment Policy*

SAND PIT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES		
The approved provider/nominated supervisor will ensure the sandpit is:		
1	of an appropriate size, which depends on the number of children using the service.	
2	constructed with edges that are not sharp or dangerous to children (use timber logs or paved areas)	
3	kept at a safe depth of a minimum 500mm and top up at least annually, ensuring the level of the sand remains within 10cm of the sandpits edge	
4	adequately shaded with deciduous trees or a shade structure	
5	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)	
The nominated supervisor and educators will ensure the sandpit is:		
6	well drained, keeping it as dry as possible	
7	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)	
8	checked daily for faeces, rubbish, needles and sharp objects which will be removed and disposed of appropriately	



9	raked at regular intervals each day to remove any dangerous or foreign matter	
10	exposed to sunshine and fresh air to help kill harmful germs	
11	thoroughly turned over each month to prevent moisture buildup and increase exposure to sunlight	
12	free from toys at the end of each day	
13	used hygienically by having children and educators wash their hands after use	

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. Educators will:		
1	wear 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, dispose of plastic bag	
3	rake the sandpit and allow to dry in the sun	
4	wash hands thoroughly after using the sandpit	
5	remove and replace all sand if the contamination is large	

REVIEW OF PROCEDURE			
Date procedure created	October 2025	To be reviewed	October 2026
Approved by	Jessie McCulloch	Signature	
Procedure Reviewed		Updates/Modifications	