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 outline within Staying Healthy 6th 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

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">SAND PIT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">The approved provider/nominated supervisor will ensure the sandpit is:</td></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td colspan="2">of an appropriate size, which depends on the number of children using the service. Kidsafe (2017) recommends the general guidelines:</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td><table>
<tr><th>Number of Children</th><th>Size of Sandpit</th></tr>
<tr><td>20</td><td>15 square metres</td></tr>
<tr><td>40</td><td>30 square metres</td></tr>
<tr><td>60</td><td>40 square metres</td></tr>
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<tr><td>2</td><td colspan="2">constructed with edges that are not sharp or dangerous to children (use timber logs or paved areas)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td colspan="2">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</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td colspan="2">adequately shaded with deciduous trees or a shade structure</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td colspan="2">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)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">The nominated supervisor and educators will ensure the sandpit is:</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td colspan="2">well drained, keeping it as dry as possible</td><td></td></tr>
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7	covered with shade cloth when not in use to prevent contamination from animal faeces and protect children from sharp or dangerous objects	
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	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, 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	

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.	

REVIEW OF PROCEDURE			
Date procedure created	14/06/2023	To be reviewed	April 2026
Approved by	Krystle Hills	Signature	
Procedure Reviewed Date	Modifications/Changes		
April 2025	Procedure reviewed in line with updates to Staying Healthy 6th Edition		
14/06/2023	Procedure created		