



Fire Pit Policy

National Quality Standard Area 3.1

Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

National Regulations, Regulation 113] *Outdoor spaces must allow children to explore and experience the natural environment. The outdoor space may include gardens, sandpits and dirt patches, pebble/gravel pits, edible plants, shady trees, worm farms, compost areas, and water play areas.*

Purpose

The purpose of the fire pit and exposing children to fire is educational based, to enrich their daily lives by teaching them proper uses of fire and the benefits it can bring.

A copy of this policy is kept in our site's Preschool Policy Compliance folder, which is located in the office. This policy applies to all staff at this site.

Detail

EYLF Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world (Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment).

EYLF Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners (Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, places, technologies and natural and processed materials)

Procedure:

- Prior to having a fire in the designated fire pit area at Kindy it is expected that staff will have engaged in meaningful dialogue with the children about fire and fire safety and documented this in the program.
- It is also expected that staff will have read the CFS Fact Sheet – Restrictions (what can and can't I do? see *copy in risk assessment folder*) and Prior to lighting a fire in the designated fire pit area staff will have consulted the CFS Website (<http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au>) and followed the recommendations for the restrictions in place for fires on the intended day of fire lighting. The Fire Danger Season generally runs from November to April, although these dates may change due to seasonal conditions. Staff must adhere to EPA guidelines "Laws for burning in the open" (see *copy in risk assessment folder*)
- Staff to complete Fire Safety Check List before starting fire (see attachment).
- Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to the fire pit area.
- The Fire Bowl is to be used as the vessel for fires as it is raised off the ground, has a lid if required, and a handlebar around the perimeter of the bowl.



- The fire is to be tended at all times by a designated staff member who is responsible for tending the fire and giving permission for children to enter the safety circle. This designated staff member is to be in attendance of the fire at all times, with fire gloves and shovel in use when needed.
- A blue/red rope is used to indicate the safety circle (approximately 1.5m from fire bowl) and children are to stay on the outside of this rope unless given permission to enter the safety circle by the fire tender.
- A container of water and a garden hose on standby must be close by before starting the fire.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Educators and Volunteers at a DECD preschool are responsible for managing fire pit hazards by:

- Ensuring fire containers are safely covered or inaccessible to children in the education and care setting/service unless supervised by staff.
- Ensure hot coals have been adequately cooled and covered with wet dirt, and staff must remain to supervise until all hot coals or hot fire implements have been removed.
- In the event of a burn occurring, the fire tender must stay with the fire and alert other staff to assist with applying cool running water for 20 minutes. Apply first aid following the 'First Aid and Accident Procedure' as required and notify relevant people as required (i.e. Parents, Emergency Services). Refer to first aid book for more detail.

Supporting information and resources

CFS Fact Sheet: (what can and can't I do) cfs website (<http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au>)

Record history

Published date: June 24

Approvals

Status: Approved

Version: 4.0

Approved by: Tina Wise | Director, Rostrevor Kindergarten

Approved by: Lucy Monteiro | Governing Council chairperson, Rostrevor Kindergarten

Approval date: 26 June 2024

Next review date: 25 June 2025 (must be 3 years from the approved date)

Revision record

Version: 3.0

Approved by: Tina Wise | Director, Rostrevor Kindergarten

Approved date: 7 June 2023

Next review date: 7 June 2024

Amendment(s): add EPA recommendations

Version: 2.0

Approved by: Tina Wise | Director, Rostrevor Kindergarten

Approved date: 13 May 2022



Next review date: 13 May 2023

Amendment(s):

Version: 1.0

Approved by: Tina Wise | Director, Rostrevor Kindergarten

Approved date: 1 May 2021

Next review date: 13 May 2022

Amendment(s): document creation.

