



# MSS & WAABINY OSHC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND TOYS POLICY



## PURPOSE

All apparatus, equipment and toys used at Montessori Stepping Stones (MSS) are required to meet Australian Standards, and be appropriate to the developmental stages, interests and cultures of the children in care. Toys of war are considered inappropriate to the service's aim of providing a safe and caring environment.

All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the MSS.P27 Maintenance of a Safe Environment policy.

There will be sufficient apparatus/equipment for the number of children enrolled and in line with MSS' philosophy to:

- avoid overcrowding and ensure that children have freedom of movement
- learn to share resources, materials and equipment and make choices (freedom of choice)
- engage children's interests
- extend their learning
- provide for all children's ages and abilities

## SCOPE

All people involved in making, purchasing, providing and arranging apparatus, equipment and toys at MSS– including children, families, educators and staff who assist in the continuous improvement and implementation of relating quality practices.

## DESCRIPTION/GENERAL

All children benefit from an environment that is focused on their individual interests, needs and abilities (The Prepared Environment). Environments that support learning are vibrant and flexible spaces that are responsive to the interests and abilities of each child. Choosing apparatus, equipment and toys that in instances can be used in multiple ways allows the environment to provide additional stimulation, variety and challenge. A prepared environment supports the holistic way children learn.

Children's safety when using equipment is also of paramount importance.

## LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984
- Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996
- Education and Care Services National (WA) Law Act 2012
- Education and Care Services National (WA) Regulations 2012

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## CHILDREN'S NEEDS

Safe environment that stimulates children’s interest, enjoyment, fun and learning.

## FAMILIES' NEEDS

Children are safe, enjoying themselves, learning new things. The apparatus, equipment, toys is culturally inclusive and appropriate as well as suitable for different ages and levels of development. Children are taught to care for things.

## EDUCATOR/STAFF NEEDS

Apparatus, equipment, toys easy to maintain in a safe condition and appropriate to learning program. The apparatus, equipment, toys are easy to store and access.

## MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Price of apparatus, equipment, toys is within budget and an inventory of apparatus, equipment, toys for insurance & budget requirements. Apparatus, equipment, toys to be sourced locally that is durable and easily maintained with ample storage space available.

## PLANNING

The apparatus, equipment, toys and material needed to facilitate learning and development as well as leisure opportunities for children will be identified as part of the planning process and provided by MSS for the carrying out of the education and care program.

Specific equipment and other resources will be obtained to support the inclusion of children with additional needs.

Apparatus, equipment, toys that encourages and supports children’s physical activity will be readily available for children to use independently or in groups, in both spontaneous and planned activities.

Children will be carefully introduced to new apparatus, equipment, toys and pieces of equipment -- and taught to use equipment appropriately.

Children using play equipment will be supervised at all times to ensure their safety when using equipment. Apparatus, equipment and toys that should only be used under supervision will be stored in a safe place that can only be accessed with adult supervision.

How children use the apparatus, equipment, toys, and the value of equipment in supporting children’s learning, development and spontaneous play will be assessed within the MSS’ ongoing cycle of review and critical reflection.

Educators, educational leaders and the nominated supervisors will determine which apparatus, equipment, toys is most appropriate taking into account:

- previous assessments of apparatus, equipment and toys use
- durability and ease of maintenance

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## MSS & WAABINY OSHC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND TOYS POLICY



- benefit to the children's program
- flexibility to create interesting and challenging environments for children
- cultural value
- opportunities for children to use the apparatus, equipment, toys in a variety of ways
- ability to stimulate children's curiosity
- ability to encourage children to explore, discover and experiment

Educators/employees input on compiling a prioritised list of items of apparatus, equipment, toys will be sought at least twice a year.

Parents/guardians will be invited to provide information about the apparatus, equipment, toys their children enjoy at intervals.

School age children will be provided with opportunities to initiate and contribute to ideas for new equipment at MSS.

The nominated supervisor and management will be responsible for the purchase of new items of apparatus, equipment, toys. If large/expensive items of apparatus, equipment or toys are requested, management will determine the service's budget limitations.

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