

ACTIVITIES

RATIONALE:

Educators are encouraged to offer a wide range of activities/provisions and experiences for children in care whilst at all times ensuring the safety of these activities. Activities should be child focused and based on the interests and abilities of the individual child.

POLICY:

TELEVISION WATCHING

Whilst Clarence Family Day Care does not advocate television watching as an activity, there are programs (such as Play School) that are excellent for children, particularly if the educator participates in the activities.

Television watching is generally too passive to be considered as an activity. Daytime adult television is definitely not suitable for children in care. Even the news may not be suitable for children. To determine the appropriateness of viewing material, educators should consult with parents and take movie ratings into account when planning for children to watch DVD's/videos. Ideally, children should only watch "G" rated material.

Use of computers and electronic games should be child focused, carefully planned and monitored by the Educator.

USE OF MACHINERY

Educators are reminded that activities which may present a danger to the children in care, such as sewing, ironing, lawn mowing etc. **are not** to be undertaken whilst children are in care. In particular, the use by educators of any motor driven tool **is not** permitted whilst Family Day Care children are on the premises. If a third person is operating the tool, the educator and Family Day Care children must be isolated from the activity. It is also required that all electrical sockets within reach of children, and not in use, have safety plugs fitted. Equipment such as photocopiers and computers must be closely supervised if used during care hours.

HAZARDOUS CRAFT MATERIALS

Educators should avoid using hazardous craft materials that may cause injury if inhaled or swallowed. Such materials may include styrofoam, small beads and shredded rubber. Close supervision is required when using scissors, glue, needles and other craft items that may be sharp or toxic, or cause harm to children.

OUT OF HOME ACTIVITIES

Whilst educators are encouraged to continue day to day "family" activities while caring for children, squash, gym, aerobics or any other activity where the children are not in the direct care and control of the educator are not appropriate. Use of a childcare or crèche facility (eg. at a squash court or aerobics class) is not acceptable. Because the educator is the person responsible for the children, he/she must closely supervise the children in care at all times.

For detailed information about leaving children in the care of another person, eg. an educator assistant or approved staff person, please refer to the Educator Assistant Policy, Relief Educator Policy, or Emergency and Other Alternate Care Policy

For detailed information about excursions please refer to the Outings & Excursions Policy.