

# Little Lambs Home Daycare

## Provision of Equipment Policy

It is the policy of Little Lambs Home Daycare to ensure a safe and developmentally stimulating environment is present in all child care premises. The policies and procedures relating to equipment must be reviewed with home child care providers, volunteers and students, persons who are ordinarily residents of the premises or regularly at the premises, home child care visitors and employees of Little Lambs Home Daycare. These policies are implemented and monitored for compliance and contraventions in accordance with Ontario Reg 137/15.

It is a required understanding between Home Child Care Providers and Little Lambs Home Daycare that the responsibility for the provision and maintenance of equipment inside/outside of the child care premises is the full responsibility of the Home Child Care Provider. Little Lambs is responsible for inspecting each home child care premises to ensure the requirements of the policy are followed and adhered to.

### Play Materials

#### **Must Be:**

1. Provided in numbers that are adequate to serve the number of children receiving child care at the premises;
2. Of sufficient variety to allow for rotation of the play materials in active use;
3. Available and accessible to children throughout the day;
4. Of such type and design to allow the children to make choices and to encourage exploration, play and inquiry;(different options are available, open-ended toys etc)
5. Appropriate to support the learning and development of each child. Including adaptations where appropriate (left handed scissors/chubby markers, paint brushes)
6. Maintained in a safe and clean condition and kept in a good state of repair.

All children receiving child care through Little Lambs Home Daycare are provided with the opportunity to engage in exploration, play and inquiry using materials that spark their curiosity and promote learning and development in all areas (social, emotional, cognitive and physical).

#### **Recommendations for Home Child Care Providers**

When making choices about which play materials to include, consider the following questions from “How Does Learning Happen?”:

- How can an understanding of the environment as the “third teacher”, as outlined in How Does Learning Happen, be a factor in considering the types of materials children should have access to?
- Which play materials offer opportunities for complex thinking and creativity?

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- What types of materials engage children, draw them in? How can natural materials be integrated into the program? How are children able to make choices about the materials and how they can be used?
- How do the play materials challenge children to take manageable risks that will foster a sense of competence and mastery?
- What opportunities do the materials provide for children to interact, negotiate and collaborate with each other?

## Equipment and Furnishings

Each Child Care premises must have appropriate equipment and furnishings necessary for the ages and abilities of children in attendance, and that it is safe, clean and sufficient for the number, ages and abilities of children in care. This includes equipment or furnishings to be used during rest periods as well as equipment that may be necessary during meal and snack times (e.g., high chairs, booster seats) or outdoor time for non-walking children (e.g., strollers, shaded areas to protect young children from sun).

### **Bedding:**

1. For each infant who receives home child care at the premises, a cradle or crib or playpen that complies with the standards for cradles, cribs and playpens in the regulations made under the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act, and bedding..
2. For each child 18 months old up to and including 5 years old who receive home child care at the premises for 6 hours or more, a cot or bed and bedding.
3. No bedding is shared between children
4. Consistent with the “Joint Statement on Safe Sleep: Preventing infant deaths in Canada”: sofa’s and armchairs are not suitable sleep equipment. If a child 5 years or less unexpectedly falls asleep, the provider is expected to most the child to a sleep furnishing that meets the regulatory requirements according to the child’s age.
5. For children aged 6 years or older, there are no requirements in the regulation regarding the type of furniture on which such a child may sleep or rest.

### **Temperature:**

The temperature of a home child care premises must be maintained at a level of at least 20 degrees celsius. This is a requirement for the health and comfort of children.

### **Balconies/Decks:**

Where the home child care premises has a balcony/deck:

- No child receiving child care at the home child care premises is permitted to play on a balcony/deck unless an adult is present on the balcony/deck.
- balconies/decks are clear of equipment/furniture and other objects that children could climb and possibly fall over the railing.
- Railings are checked regularly to ensure they are secure.

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- Deck stairs are securely gated while children are present at the child care premises to ensure no child accidentally falls down them.
- patio/balcony doors are locked at all times.

## **Outdoor Play Equipment**

It is not necessary for the home child care provider to have a park like structure in their yard. Providers are encouraged to access local parks. However if the home child care provider has outdoor play structures they must meet the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act requirements.

outdoor play toys should be:

1. Provided in numbers that are adequate to serve the number of children receiving child care at the premises;
2. Of sufficient variety to allow for rotation of the play materials in active use;
3. Available and accessible to children during outdoor play
4. Of such type and design to allow the children to make choices and to encourage exploration, play and inquiry;(different options are available, open-ended toys etc)
5. Appropriate to support the learning and development of each child. Including adaptations where appropriate.
6. Maintained in a safe and clean condition and kept in a good state of repair.

E.g., water/sand tables, balls, trucks, ride ons, art materials, natural obstacles, etc