



## The Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre GARDENING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### Policy Statement

The Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre (LWCC) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. The LWCC will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of biological, chemical and physical hazards within the Centre.

### Purpose

To ensure that all employees are aware of and adhere to the directive established by Toronto Public Health (TPH), in regard to gardening at the LWCC.

This policy applies to all employees, students, children and any others persons engaged in business with the LWCC.

### Procedures

When designing, planning or using a garden the following must be followed:

- Soil quality:
  - Prior to use, identify any sources of potential soil contamination. If soil contamination is identified, or assistance is required, please contact the Asset Management Unit (416) 392-4000 for direction.
  - Discard stagnant water regularly to prevent mosquito breeding sites.
  - Protect soil from animals.
  - Inspect the soil and garden prior to children's use.
- If designing a new garden:
  - Build a raised garden bed (child sized plots), or use planters or pots.
  - Use clean soil.
- Hygiene:
  - Wash hands and children's hands after gardening.
  - Wash produce from the garden thoroughly before using.
  - Peel root vegetables before eating.

### Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees and students prior to commencing employment/unpaid placement at the LWCC and annually thereafter and at any time where a change is made.

Reference(s): Toronto Public Health Guidance Document 2017

Date Approved: January 2017

Effective Date: January 2017

Next Review Date: January 2018