Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653)

*Division 1 and 2 of the Regulations apply to the proposed development being Centre-based child care service to which the appropriate sections are discussed as follows:*

***Division 1 Centre-based services and family day care services***

*104 Fencing – any outdoor space used by children at the education and care services premises is enclosed by a fence or barrier that is of height and design that children and preschool age or under cannot go through, over or under.*

The ground floor outdoor play space is proposed to be enclosed by a concrete perimeter barrier built to ground level to a height of 1080mm, with 900mm high glass paneling on top of the concrete to create a barrier to the height of 2m. The fencing located at the boundary of the main central drive is proposed to be constructed of concrete to a height of 2 metres. The first floor outdoor play area is enclosed by a common wall shared by the adjoining site at 55 Anderson Road. A translucent toughened glass balustrade is proposed to enclose the first floor outdoor play space to a height of 2m.

The proposed fencing and balustrading is considered to be appropriate to ensure the safety of children in the outdoor play spaces.

*105 Furniture, materials and equipment – children must have access to sufficient furniture, materials and developmentally appropriate equipment suitable for the education and care of children.*

Appropriate materials and permanent fixtures are provided in the outdoor play spaces to provide appropriate sensory and developmental opportunities for children. No plans have been provided for the proposed furniture to be used in the playrooms. It is considered this can be designed and provided by the service provider and is not a matter that requires further assessment under this application.

*106 Laundry and hygiene facilities – a laundry facility or access to laundry facilities capable of dealing with soiled clothing, nappies and linen, including hygienic facilities for storage prior to disposal or laundering. Laundry and hygienic facilities are required to be located and maintained in a way that doesn’t pose a risk to children.*

A separate laundry room is provided on the first floor of the proposed child care centre providing sufficient bench space to process laundry, a laundry tub and room for a washing machine, dryer and clothes airer. The laundry is separated from the child play rooms in a separate room with a door.

*107 Space requirements – indoor space*

*A minimum of 3.25m2 of unencumbered indoor space is required to be provided for each child.*

The below table demonstrates the unencumbered space required for each playroom and the unencumbered space provided.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Playroom number | Number of children proposed | Minimum floor space required | Total unencumbered floor space provided |
| 1 | 8 | 26m2 | 31m2 |
| 2 | 12 | 39m2 | 41m2 |
| 3 | 15 | 48.75m2 | 51m2 |
| 4 | 15 | 48.75m2 | 51m2 |
| 5 | 15 | 48.75m2 | 52m2 |
| 6 | 15 | 48.75m2 | 54m2 |

*108 Space requirement – outdoor space*

*A minimum of 7m2 of unencumbered outdoor space is required to be provided for each child.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Outdoor Play space location | Number of children proposed | Minimum floor space required | Total unencumbered floor space provided |
| Ground Floor | 20 | 140m2 | 140m2 |
| First Floor | 60 | 420m2 | 430m2 |

*109 Toilet and hygiene facilities – adequate developmentally and age-appropriate toilet, washing and drying facilities are required to be provided for the use of children. The location and design of the toilet, washing and drying enable the safe and convenient access by children.*

Each playroom has been provided with age appropriate toileting facilities and handwashing facilities. The bathrooms have been designed to facilitate appropriate supervision with windows into the bathrooms from the playrooms and from the outside play areas to facilitate supervision at all times, whilst also providing the children with open toilet cubicles to ensure their dignity will be maintained. Nappy change areas are provided within the children bathrooms or within their own separate nappy change room with handwashing and bathing facilities. Windows are also provided into these rooms from the playrooms to facilitate supervision.

*110 Ventilation and natural light – indoor spaces used by children are required to be well ventilated, have adequate natural light and are maintained at temperatures that ensures the safety and wellbeing of children.*

Each playroom is provided with large glass stacking doors opening up to the associated outdoor play space. The first floor play rooms have additionally been provided with a bank of clerestory windows to provide additional light and ventilation these spaces. The centre will be fitted out with ducted reverse cycle air conditioning with added air filters in accordance with the recommendations of the Air Quality Assessment report. The air-conditioning unit will ensure the facility is maintained at temperatures that ensures the safety and well being of children and ensure the air quality in the building is being maintained at high standards.

**Division 2 Additional requirements for centre-based services**

*111 Administrative space – an adequate area or areas are required for the purpose of conducting administrative functions, consulting with parents of children, conducting private conversations.*

A 14m2 office is provided on the ground floor which is considered appropriate to achieve the required administrative functions.

*112 Nappy change facilities – this section is applicable for centres providing for children who wear nappies. Adequate hygienic facilities are required for nappy changing for any child under 3 years of age. A minimum of 1 adequately constructed nappy changing bench and hand cleaning facilities for adults in the immediate vicinity of the nappy change area. The nappy change area must be designed and located to prevent unsupervised access by children.*

Playrooms 1 – 4 are proposed to accommodate children to the age of 3 years old and therefore require nappy changing facilities. Playrooms 1 and 2 provide a nappy change area within the children’s bathroom providing access to the outdoor play space and accessible to both playrooms and a separate nappy change room accessible to both playrooms. Playrooms 3 and 4 also provide a shared nappy change room accessible to both playrooms.

The nappy change rooms and combine nappy change room/bathroom provide an adequately sized bench, separate hand washing basin and bathing tub. The nappy change areas provide for constant supervision with windows being provided from the playrooms to the nappy change areas and provide doors that can exclude the access of children to these areas.

*113 Outdoor space – natural environment – outdoor spaces provided shall allow children to explore and experience the natural environment.*

A detailed landscape plan has been provided for both outdoor play spaces which provide a mixture of manmade features and natural elements such as sand, timber, trees, shrubs and grasses. Conditions of consent are recommended to ensure the landscaping is installed as proposed and to ensure the ongoing maintenance of all landscaping.

*114 outdoor space – shade – outdoor spaces are required to provide adequate shaded areas to protect children from overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.*

The first floor and ground floor play spaces have been designed with roof overhanging elements to provide permanent shading for the outdoor areas. Additionally, as detailed above, the landscape plan proposes a number of trees for the outdoor play spaces which, when established, will provide for additional shading opportunities.

*115 Premises designed to facilitate supervision – the centre is required to be designed to facilitate supervision of children at all times (including toilets and nappy change facilities) whilst having regard to maintain the rights and dignity of children.*

The centre has been designed to ensure that all areas accessible by children can be supervised at all times. This includes the provision of large glass windows/doors between the indoor and outdoor play spaces, windows between the indoor play spaces and nappy change areas and bathrooms, windows between the bathrooms and outdoor play areas and windows between the indoor play areas and hallways/corridors. All service areas have doors to the rooms to ensure children can be excluded from these areas. Children’s dignity is maintained by the use of open style cubicles in the children’s bathroom to provide privacy, but also provide suitable supervision.