

Snake policy

The kindergarten is located in an area where snakes may be a problem, in that they pose a danger to staff, parents and children. Mid to late spring and summer are times when snakes become active.

Guidelines for the management of snake control/encountering a snake at Mount Barker Kindergarten are:

- Most snakes will avoid humans, and if left alone and not restricted, will move away from any perceived threat.
- If a snake appears in the yard and/or teaching area inside, ensure children are kept away and give the opportunities for the snake to escape.
- If the snake remains and is perceived to be a threat, the first course of action (after clearing the area to a safe distance) is to contact the local council and/or Building Management Services and request assistance in removal of the snake.
- If the snake is assessed as posing an immediate and unavoidable danger to staff and children, then a staff member should attempt to dispose of it. This should be done in the most efficient and safe way possible and should take into account the sensibilities of any children who may be witnesses. Staff should not be compelled to dispose of snakes and all other avenues of managing the situation safely should be explored before this option is employed.
- The introduction of administrative preventative strategies such as keeping long grass cut back, not allowing suitable habitats, should assist in minimising any occurrence of snakes.
- Ensure the First Aid procedures and doctor/hospital phone numbers are clearly displayed. Provide a specifically labelled bandage for snakebite only, in the first aid kit.
- It is strongly recommended that children and staff be given specific instructions as to the correct procedures to adopt if they encounter a snake.

Adelaide Snake Catchers: 0413 511 440

Reviewed: 2017

Next Review: Sept 2018