



Gardening Policy and Procedures

Created: March 15, 2016

Revised: October 17, 2017, May 6, 2020

Reference: Toronto Public Health Guidance Document 2017, 2019

Approved by Board of Directors: November 15, 2017

Policy:

Orde Day Care is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and staff. Orde Day Care will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of biological, chemical and physical hazards within our centres.

This policy was developed to ensure that all staff, students, are aware of and adhere to the directive established by Toronto Public Health (TPH), and Orde Day Care in regards to gardening at our centres.

Procedures:

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

- Soil quality:
 - Prior to use, review area with head caretaker/Supervisor to identify any sources of potential soil contamination.
 - 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 Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all staff, students and volunteers upon hiring /unpaid placement and annually thereafter and when a change is made.

Staff Name		Supervisor Name:
Staff Signature:		Supervisor Signature:
Date:		Date: