



#PlayToday

info@playaustralia.org.au
www.playaustralia.org.au

promoting the value of play

FENCING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Most Early Childhood services have one of the following types of fence:

- ◆ Pool fencing (most expensive and therefore often difficult to have)
- ◆ Chain mesh
- ◆ Weld mesh
- ◆ Paling fencing
- ◆ Picket fencing

The DET in Victoria requires that all Early Childhood services in receipt of government funding will provide fencing that is impossible for children to climb. Whilst we know that some children can climb any kind of fence, the intention is clear. The issue of ensuring that the fence is unscalable means that there needs to be an internal covering on the inside of the fence which will prevent climbing unless the fence is of a pool fencing quality.

Extract from the current regulations

104 Fencing

- (1) *The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that any outdoor space used by children at the education and care service premises is enclosed by a fence or barrier that is of a height and design that children preschool age or under cannot go through, over or under it.*

Shade cloth can be attached to the inside of fence. Available from shade cloth manufacturers found via the Yellow Pages or hardware stores.

There is a plastic lattice type product available which can be installed on the inside of the fence which prevents climbing, is relatively cheap and looks more attractive than shade cloth. Product available is a Nylex product, called General Purpose Mesh, and suggest contact with a distributor called Purple Pig, which operates from Sunshine, Bayswater and Mildura.

Suggest serious planting for a longer term solution.

GENERAL

1.5 metres was the minimum height recommended for many years prior to the new regulations.

The distance between the verticals is recommended to be between 80-100 mm and the distance between the horizontals is recommended to be no less than 900 mm

Pool fencing is clearly the best but the most expensive. Many Councils have provided grants for the establishment of new fences in accord with the guidelines determined by the DET