

Extracts from norms and standards for partial care and environmental health

Norm	Standard *	Standard unpacked
A safe environment for children	Children must experience safety and feel cared for whilst at the partial care facility.	Proper fencing: Where children play outside, the site is enclosed with a fence of brick, wall or other approved material to ensure the safety of children on the premises.
		Access: An entrance and exit control available on the premises, with a lockable gate or door
		The yard or outdoor play area is clean and safe - free from debris, litter and animal faeces.
	Where applicable, new buildings and alterations to buildings comply with the building standards as set out by the National Building Regulations and Building Standard Act, 1997 (Act No.103 of 1997).	The structure :
		(i) provides basic protection from rain, wind and sun, and has no leaks;
		(ii) appears stable - no large cracks, crumbling or holes and not at risk of collapse;
	(iii) has a securely fixed roof . It does not leak or have any major structural defects.	
	The walls are easy to clean.	
	The floors have a smooth surface that is easily cleanable and prevents the permeation of dampness. Floors must be suitable for children to play and sleep on	
Adequate cross ventilation and natural light	The partial care facility must have adequate ventilation and sufficient light.	There are windows and doors which open and close to provide ventilation. Cross-ventilation is provided by windows and doors on opposite sides of the play room
		Sufficient light: Staff and children can see to read and play inside.
Adequate indoor space	Space for different activities and functions must be clearly demarcated.	Playrooms: There is sufficient indoor space for children to play freely (at least 1.5 square metre of unobstructed floor space for each child, not including passageways, bathrooms and storage areas).
Measures for the separation of children of different age groups	Where possible, children must be separated into the following age categories in separate rooms or places to ensure their development:	Children must be separated according to age groups
		(i) children under the age of 18 months;
		(ii) children between the ages of 18 and 36 months;
		(iii) children between the ages of three and four years; and
	(iv) children between the ages of four and six years.	
A hygienic area for the preparation of food for children	There must be a separate, clean and safe area for the preparation of food as well as for cleaning up after food preparation.	Kitchen: If food is prepared on site, there is a separate area for the preparation of food and for cleaning up after food preparation, which is clean and out of children's reach.
		There must be a sufficient supply of clean water as well as cleaning agents.

A hygienic area for the preparation of food for children		There must be a separate clean and safe area for serving food to the children.
		Office - Where more than 50 children are enrolled for a full day at a partial care facility, there is a separate room or place to be used as an office and as a sickbay. An office cum sickbay will suffice for centres with less than 50 children
		Separate storage facilities must be provided for proper storage on the premises that caters for the belongs of the children, the staff, furniture and educational equipment , cleaning materials etc.
Proper care for sick children or children who become ill	Where the illness is suspected to be infectious, the child is separated from other children;	A sick bay must be properly ventilated and illuminated in line with the Building Regulations; It must be equipped with an adequate supply of potable water and a wash up facilities (for washing of wounds, hand washing etc.);
	Every partial care facility must have a first-aid kit.	There is a first aid kit which includes, amongst other equipment: (i) Adhesive bandages; (ii) Sterile gauzes; (iii) Medical tape; (iv) Scissors; (v) Liquid soap; (vi) First aid instruction book; (vii) Disposable gloves.
Safe drinking water	Safe and clean drinking water must always be available.	Safe and clean drinking water is always available, and there is sufficient safe water for all other needs (e.g. cooking, cleaning).
		Where water is not from a piped source, it is treated according to national health guidelines e.g. by adding one teaspoon of bleach to 25 litres of water.
		All water containers are kept clean and covered at all times.
Hygienic and adequate toilet and hand wash facilities	Partial care facilities catering for toddlers must have potties, toilets and washbasins.	Babies There is a safe, hygienic and clearly demarcated nappy changing area with a surface that can be easily cleaned and which is situated away from the food preparation area. Hands are washed after nappy changing and nappies are disposed of hygienically.
		For children up to the age of three years— there are appropriate toilets and potties; where there are no sewerage or ablution facilities, potties must be made available - one potty for every five toddlers
	For children between the ages of three and six years— where sewerage systems	For children aged three years and older— where sewerage systems are available, there is one toilet and one hand washing basin for every 20 children;

Hygienic and adequate toilet and hand wash facilities	are available, there must be one toilet and one hand washing basin for every 20 children;	Children over the age of three years can reach toilets and handwashing facilities (steps and seat converters or junior toilets and hand wash basins).
	Where no sewerage facilities are available, an appropriate VIP or other toilet is available at the partial care facility or immediately adjacent to the partial care facility (within 200m);	VIP and other toilets are safe to be used by children (reduced pot size and height) and are kept hygienically clean;
		Hand wash facilities 1 basin for every 20 children
		Where no running water /taps and washbasins available, there is one suitable container for every 20 children, which is kept clean and covered; These can include a pitcher of water, a small tank / drum fitted with a tap set on a stand or a "tippy tap" made from a plastic bottle that is hung on a rope and that pours a small stream when tipped. Waste water should fall into a basin and safely disposed of.
Separate toilets and hand wash facilities should be provided for staff members on the premises.	1 separate toilet per 20 staff members: this can double up as a toilet for wheelchair users	
Outdoor play area (NEHS)	An outdoor play area of a minimum of at least 2m ² must be provided for each child. In practice it is better to provide 5m ² per child where possible	Separate outdoor play areas should be provided for different age groups, (0-2 years) (2-4 years), (4-6 years). OR Outdoor play areas are used in rotation by different age groups
		The play equipment provided must be well maintained - free from sharp points or corners, splinters, protruding nails or bolts or rusty parts, hazardous small parts, lead-based paints, poisonous material, or flaking or chalking paint. The play equipment should also be designed to guard against entrapment or situations that may cause strangulation.
Access to refuse disposal services or other adequate means of disposal of refuse generated at the partial care facility	Where possible, refuse must be disposed of according to municipality regulations.	Where possible, refuse is disposed of by the municipality.
		Where there are not municipal waste collections, waste is disposed of in a refuse pit or using other hygienic disposal methods which are not accessible to children.
Health and safety	All reasonable precautions must be taken to protect children and staff from the risk of fire, accidents or other hazards.	(i) There are no exposed electrical wires.
		(ii) Children are protected against open fires, hot water installations, electrical fittings and appliances, and heating appliances.

Health and safety		(iii) Children are not physically able to access the cooking area of their own accord. Stove-tops are out of children's reach.
		(iv) Indoor and outdoor play areas are free from structural hazards such as excavations and sharp edges or corners; and children are protected from stairs, heights or any surfaces that may pose a danger to them.
		(v) There is no open water where children could fall and drown.
		(vi) Approved fire control equipment is provided and maintained in good order, in line with the relevant by-laws of the local authority.
The drawing up of action plans for emergencies	Reasonable precautions to protect children from risk of fire, accidents and other hazards must be taken.	There is a written emergency plan clearly displayed on the wall. The emergency plan includes evacuation procedures and a list of emergency numbers must be clearly displayed on the wall

* This is the original standard from the N&S from Partial Care, and from Chapter 4 of the Children's Act Regulations.