

BUREAU OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

POLICY STATEMENT

ID NUMBER: 00-2

TOPIC: Rooftop Playgrounds

MODALITIES IMPACTED: Day Care Center Programs

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS: 418 and 418-2

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EFFECTIVE: Immediately

THIS POLICY STATEMENT IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS MEMOS OR STATEMENTS ON THIS TOPIC.

The purpose of this policy statement is to provide guidelines regarding the development and use of rooftop playgrounds as an option for outdoor activities when day care is located primarily in urban areas in multi-floored buildings with limited or no accessible outdoor playground areas. The use of rooftop playgrounds as an area for outdoor play should be considered only after the option of developing a traditional landbased playground has been determined unfeasible due to lack of available physical space.

BUILDING REQUIREMENTS: The building where the day care center is located must meet all applicable Uniform Building Code (UBC) requirements, including those for allowable height and fire area for C6.1 and C6.2 occupancies. If the building in question is permitted to have a day care center on the top floor, then the roof may be considered for a playground. In any event, however, the rooftop where the playground is located cannot exceed the height where local fire apparatus can reach and safely evacuate children. The roof must be capable of supporting the increased loads imposed by the playground equipment and activities in accordance with applicable building code, which can be determined by the local building inspector. In a mixed occupancy building, where other businesses occur, the provisions of Section 771.6 of the UBC are applicable. All exposed pipes and other mechanical equipment (air conditioning units, etc.) must be properly barricaded to prevent access to children playing on the playground.

FIRE EVACUATION AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are particularly critical when discussing rooftop playgrounds. There needs to be two

