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## Another Childcare Center Targeted in Sydney Arson Spree

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— Categories: *Crime, Economics*



A second childcare facility in Sydney has come under attack in what authorities now suspect is a deliberate campaign of arson. Emergency services were called to the *Play to Learn* childcare center in Castle Hill at around 1:30 a.m. on Monday, following reports of a fire. This incident comes just days after a similar attempted arson at another *Play to Learn* location in Turramurra, raising concerns over escalating threats to community infrastructure.

Fire crews responded swiftly to the blaze at the Castle Hill center on Excelsior Avenue, managing to contain and extinguish it before extensive damage occurred. While the fire resulted in only minor structural damage, police and forensic teams are treating the case as

suspicious. According to preliminary reports, it appears an individual forcibly entered the premises before igniting the fire.

New South Wales (NSW) Police are responsible for state law enforcement, now investigating both incidents as related cases. The first attempt, which occurred at approximately 4:25 a.m. last Friday, involved a group of masked individuals who broke into the Turramurra facility, doused the foyer area with petrol, and set it alight. Evidence recovered at the scene, including a melted jerry can, supports the theory of premeditated arson.

In response to the earlier attack, *Play to Learn* issued a public statement emphasizing that its advanced fire suppression systems activated in time to prevent major harm. Surveillance footage from the center's closed-circuit television (CCTV) system has been handed over to authorities. "Our state-of-the-art CCTV security system also captured the incident in full, allowing us to work closely with police and relevant authorities," said Jemma Quinlan, Operations Director at *Play to Learn*. She further noted that while the Turramurra center remains temporarily closed for repairs, safety remains their highest priority.

It's alarming that childcare facilities places meant to nurture and protect the youngest members of our society are now targets of criminal activity. Regardless of the motivation behind these acts, they represent an intolerable threat to community safety. These attacks are a grim reminder that public safety infrastructure, especially where children are involved, must be vigilantly guarded and taken seriously.

The broader concern is not just the criminal act itself but the growing sense of disorder in suburban communities. Castle Hill and Turramurra, typically considered safe and family-oriented suburbs in Sydney's north-west and north shore, respectively, now find themselves at the center of an unsettling trend.

As authorities continue their investigations, residents are left questioning how such targeted violence could happen twice in a matter of days. While motives remain unclear, the pattern cannot be ignored. Until arrests are made and justice is served, childcare centers across the region are likely to remain on high alert.