

Hygiene and Infection control Policy

Policy Statement

It is important that Educators role model positive health practices and that children are appropriately supervised, assisted and encouraged in their daily health and hygiene routines. Education and care environments must be hygienically maintained to reduce the possible spread of infection

Links to the Education and Care Centres National Regulations 2018, National Quality Standards 2018

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Regs	88	Infectious diseases
	109	Toilet and Hygiene facilities
	168	Education and care must have policies
NQS	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
	2.2.1	At all times , reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected

Procedures:

- Due to the Covid- 19 Pandemic the service has introduced the application of sanitiser to the handwashing routine. All children, staff and visitors hands on arrival to the service will be directed to sanitiser. Sanitiser will be made readily available at all times.
- Ensure children, staff, volunteers and visitors are all encouraged to use the sanitiser on arrival and when leaving the centre, after toileting, before handling food and after wiping a nose.
- Ensure staff and visitors also use additional barriers such as disposable gloves where appropriate.
- Regularly clean the indoor environment of the centre. Clean daily the toilet, food preparation areas, taps etc. Use neutral detergent and water. It is not recommended that bleach be used in an after school care setting whilst children are in attendance.
- Regularly wash and clean toys and play equipment. Items contaminated with faeces or urine need to be washed with detergent before sterilised.
- Ensure children and staff; do not share brushes, combs, towels and facecloths.
- Ensure staff, always wear gloves where they are likely to be exposed to blood, faeces, urine or other body fluids, including any activity where there might be contact with a child's mucous membranes such as the nose, mouth or when handling any items or materials that have come into contact with blood or body fluids.
- Encourage staff to be fully immunised and encourage families to maintain the Immunisation of their children. Maintain a record of both staff and children's immunisations and in particular staff and children who are not fully immunised in order to take appropriate action during out-breaks of vaccine-preventable disease.
- Separate acutely ill children from well children and keep under supervision until they can be picked up by their parent/guardian

- In an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, exclude children who are not immunised on advice from the local Public Health Unit.
- Exclude children and staff, who have a respiratory infection, diarrhoea, any vaccine preventable disease, a transmissible skin infection not yet being treated, or any other infectious disease.
- Exclude and advise the parent or family to take to their doctor any child the staff considers acutely unwell. To have a potential serious disease or a potential infectious disease, or will be unable to participate in normal activities to the detriment of their safety or other children's safety.
- Medical equipment used for individual staff or children must not be used for any other person and must be cleaned, disinfected or sterilized after each use and in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- If thermometers are used, such as a digital thermometer, will need to be cleaned according to the manufacturer's instructions, or in the case of the ear thermometer, please use the disposable plastic covers provided.
- Clean blood and body fluid spills according to standard infection control precautions.
- Guidelines outlined in the Department of Human Services and Health manual "Staying Healthy in Child Care" will be adhered.
- The centre adheres to the NHMRC guidelines on childhood infectious diseases and exclusion period.
- Fun 4 U management and Staff will ensure children attending excursions will use sanitiser when departing and re-entering the centre

Sources & Further Readings

National Health and Medical Research Council *Staying Healthy in Childcare: Preventing infectious disease in Childcare, Australian Government* (6th edition). Retrieved from website www.nhmrc.gov.au 23rd August, 2024

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2000 and Regulations 2001 (NSW)

Community childcare co-operative, accessed November, 2015

Department of Community Services *Children Service Regulations Guide 2004*

NSW Dept of Community Services Licensing Regulations

Comments:

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