

Mother's Love Early Education & Childcare Service

2.13 Hygiene and infection control

It is important that the 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 and illnesses.

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 77, 88, 168

Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)

Links to National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4; 3.1.1

Goals

- The education and care service aims to maintain a healthy and hygienic environment for children, educators and families by providing professional cleaning services on a daily basis.
- The service will ensure that additional procedures are implemented to minimise the potential risk of disease and illness. These procedures will include:
 - Spot and routine cleaning by educators;
 - Effective hand washing practices;
 - Identifying and excluding sick children and educators as per the Infectious diseases and the Illness policy;
 - Maintaining updated immunisation records as per the Infectious diseases policy;
 - Effective handling, storage and disposal or washing of soiled items; and
 - The use of personal protection equipment.

Strategies

Approved Provider will:

- Ensure procedures that prevent the spread of infectious diseases are designed to be implemented by educators and volunteers.

- Ensure that the Nominated Supervisor, educators and volunteers are aware of the need to implement health, hygiene practices and safe food handling and storage practices in order to minimise risks for the children in the education and care service.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that educators and volunteers implement health, hygiene practices and safe food handling and storage practices in order to minimise risks for the children in the education and care service.
- Ensure that in the event of an infectious disease being identified within the children, families or educators in the service, steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease, and that parents and emergency contact details are notified about the occurrence of an infectious disease as soon as possible.
- Maintain up-to-date immunisation records for all children. Families will be given reminder notifications when scheduled immunisations are due. If any outbreak occurs within the education and care service children who are not immunised will be excluded as per the Infectious Diseases Policy.
- Introduce cleaning systems that prevent contamination and cross infection. Cleaning buckets, cloths, mops etc will be clearly labelled, coded to indicate their specific use and stored in a location inaccessible to children.
- Ensure that new educators, casual educators and volunteers are informed about the strategies and procedures implemented by the education and care service to keep themselves and the children protected.
- Prioritise training and professional development for educators regarding current hygiene and infection control practices.
- Place a copy of hand washing procedures near all hand washing areas for educators to follow.
- Monitor sand cleanliness and arrange for annual change or topping up as needed.

Educators will:

- Engage in training, research and professional development about current hygiene and infection control practices.
- Be responsible for routine cleaning of the education and care service. This will include sweeping and mopping floors after meal and activity times, wiping tables with soapy water before and after meals, sanitizing toys and equipment after use; and particularly after children have mouthed toys. The sandpits will be raked daily, covered each night and the sand cleaned frequently.

- Ensure that children's handwashing areas have a visual procedure available for children to refer to. Educators will role model correct hand washing techniques and give verbal reminders to children when washing hands.
- Monitor children's health and wellbeing while they are at the education and care service: Educators will observe children's activity carefully. If a child shows symptoms such as lethargy, high temperature, vomiting, skin rash, difficulty in breathing, diarrhoea or when educators have concerns about a child's health, they will immediately inform the Nominated Supervisor and the family. (Implement the Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and the Infectious Diseases Policy.)
- Wear gloves at all times when assisting a child with soiled or wet their clothing, and during nappy change and toileting routines. (Nappy Change and Toileting Policies.)
- Cover any cuts, abrasions, dermatitis or open skin on hands with a water resistant dressing or use disposable gloves.
- Clean nappy change mats and areas after each use following the Nappy Change Policy and procedure.
- Spot Clean nappy change and bathroom areas as required during the day and clean the areas thoroughly once daily.
- Effectively manage bodily fluid spills and accidents. Blood or bodily fluid spills will be isolated with barricades until the educator can remove the spill hygienically. The educator will: avoid direct contact with the spill; use personal protective equipment; contain the spill as far as possible using paper towel, disposing of it in a sealed plastic clinical waste bag; clean the spill using neutral detergent (and bleach where necessary); dry or ventilate the area; notify the work cover authority if there has been exposure to bodily fluids that may present the risk of the transmission of blood borne diseases. (Refer to Procedures for Cleaning Soiled Surfaces)
- Administer first aid to any educator who has blood or bodily fluids splash into their eyes or mouth by irrigating the eyes for 5-10 minutes and/or blow nose and spit out and rinse out the mouth.
- Store and dispose of soiled items appropriately as per nappy change and toileting policies. Soiled items not belonging to an individual child or family that have been exposed to bodily fluids will be rinsed in cold water and washed separately in a machine using hot water.
- Encourage children to cover their noses and mouths when sneezing or coughing and to wash and dry their hands afterwards. Model this behaviour.

- Wash your hands before preparing food. Children's cups, plates and bowls along with all kitchen utensils used in the preparation of food will be sanitised.
- Use every precaution to minimise the risk of infection within the education and care service environment for themselves, the children and the families.

Evaluation

The safety and well-being of the educators, families and children will be the priority of the education and care service. Effective hygiene practices will be implemented by the education and care service to minimise the risk of infection spreading.

Sources

Staying Healthy in Child Care – Fifth Edition – 2012

WorkCover NSW - www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Centre for Community Child Health - www.rch.org.au

National Health and Medical Research Council - www.nhmrc.gov.au

Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW)

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