

Health, Hygiene and Infection Control

Rationale

Fleurieu Occasional Community Children's Centre understands it has a duty of care that all persons that attend the service have a healthy and safe environment to learn in and work at. All educators will be fully informed about their responsibility to implement and adhere to the service's policies and health/hygiene procedures.

Our service has a responsibility to support the health, protection, safety and wellbeing of all children in our care. Implementing effective hygiene practices and managing illness effectively is an important factor in minimising the risk of communicable disease. Experiences that promote child health and hygiene awareness are an important part of supporting children's health needs.

Legislation and Government Requirements

Federal and State Health and Occupational Safety & Health Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (Vic)

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Policy Statement

Our service aims to promote a healthy and safe environment in which children's health needs are supported and effective hygiene and infection control strategies are implemented. The focus is on prevention, supporting individual health requirements and learning about healthy lifestyles.

Strategies for Policy Implementation

- Educators are to maintain a high standard of hygiene
- Information will be provided about infection control on a regular basis
- Educators will role model personal hygiene and will discuss hand washing and other good hygiene practices with children
- Hand hygiene is the most effective way to control infection in the service. Educators and children should wash hands; on arrival, before all cleaning tasks, after all dirty tasks (nappy changing) and before leaving the service.
- Hand basins should be accessible to both children and educators
- Effective handwashing procedures will be displayed next to all basins
- Soiled laundry will be hygienically stored in a sealed container inaccessible to children. Educators will wear gloves when handling laundry.
- Laundry facilities are appropriate for the service and located away from children.

- Tissues will be disposed of after wiping noses and educators will wear gloves when wiping them

Health/Infection Control

- Color coded sponges will be used for cleaning different area
- The service will use detergent and water to clean unless a particular disinfectant is needed to prevent infection.
- Each child will have their own bedding which will be washed each day after use

Nappy Changing

- Nappy changes will be done in designated nappy change areas and will be well stocked for use with gloves, paper towels, plastic bags and other changing equipment.
- Families will supply disposable nappies
- Educators will discuss toileting readiness with parents to maintain a consistent approach that is developmentally appropriate. Information will be given to parents to support the Toileting process for both children and families.
- Several changes of clothing should be supplied during toilet training
- Educators will encourage independence but support training needs as required
- Nappy changing and toileting procedures will be displayed in bathrooms
- Educators will interact with children in a relaxed and positive way during nappy changing and toileting
- Toileting and handwashing procedures will be accessible for children and age appropriate
- In the instance of mild nappy rash, nappy changes will be recorded and parents/caregivers will be contacted to inform them of the rash.
- The child's nappy will be kept as clean and dry as possible and nappies will be changed frequently.
- With written permission (in our medication folder) a simple barrier cream labelled with the child's name can be applied. For severe nappy rash a prescribed/ medicated cream can be applied providing, the cream is in its original container clearly labelled with the child's name.

Cleaning toys and equipment

- Toys and dress up clothes will be washed regularly in warm water and detergent
- Toys will be cleaned regularly and toys will not be shared (within reason)
- Surfaces will be cleaned with warm water and detergent after use. The floors will be cleaned after spills (as per guidelines of staying healthy in child care)

- Bottles/Dummies will be cleaned after use with warm water and detergent and sent home to be cleaned properly by parents
- Food will not be given to children if dropped on the floor or handled by another child.
- The principles of good hygiene will be discussed regularly with children
- Children will be supervised with animals if visiting the centre and encouraged to wash hands after touching

Immunisation against Infectious Disease

- Parents will be encouraged to immunise their child against all diseases appropriate for the children's age and a record will be kept and updated of the child's current immunisation status.
- Children who are not immunised, do not have a complete record or are immunosuppressed will be excluded from care during infectious disease outbreaks.
- Information will be given regularly to parents regarding immunisation and common infectious diseases in childhood
- It is the policy of the centre that all educators are up to date with immunisations

Exclusion due to Infectious Disease

- Information about our service's exclusion policy and exclusion periods is provided to families in our Parent Handbook
- Children and staff with an infectious disease will be excluded from the service in accordance with the guidelines in Staying Healthy in Child Care or recommended by Health and Medical Research Guidelines. A medical certificate must be provided by a doctor stating that the child/staff is well enough to return.
- The service will display a notice at the service's entrance and email (where appropriate) to inform parents, staff and other visitors to the centre of the exclusion due to infectious disease.
- Educators who are unwell should not attend the service and if a child becomes unwell whilst at the service the service's illness policy should be followed.
- Anyone infected with a blood-borne virus should not be discriminated against and confidentiality processes should be followed. Good hygiene procedures should be maintained.

Head Lice

- Educators will examine the heads of any children who scratch their heads to look for eggs or lice near the scalp

- Parents will be asked to collect their child wherever possible and commence treatment. Exclusion is not necessary provided appropriate treatment has commenced. Information will be provided for parents regarding appropriate treatment.
- A notice will be displayed to advise other parents to check their children.
- All staff will be given information about detecting head lice
- Where an educator is infected they should commence treatment on that evening

Healthy Environment

- Educators will ensure that every effort will be given to maintain a high level of hygiene and staff will report any equipment that is not safe, clean or hygienic.
- All spills of blood and other bodily fluids will be dealt with procedures for infectious control. Gloves will be readily available for dealing with spills.
- Our service is a non-smoking environment. Smoke may trigger asthma and passive smoking harms the lungs of young children.
- All educators should follow the centre's Sun protection policy. This policy is available to all families on enrolment and on a regular basis.
- All rooms should be well ventilated and windows should be open on a daily basis. All windows should have flyscreens
- All educators should ensure that noise levels are comfortable for all children and staff in the centre.

Procedures

- Hand washing procedure
- Head lice policy
- Nappy Changing Procedure
- Procedures for cleaning toys and equipment

Links to other policies

- Hygiene and Housekeeping policy
- Toileting Policy
- Accidents Emergencies and First Aid
- Immunisation Policy
- Medication Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Sun Protection

Sources:

Staying Healthy In Child Care

Immunise Australia Program

Worksafe SA

Sids and Kids

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