



Health, Hygiene and Infection Control

Policy Statement

NBCA services aim to treat health and hygiene matters with respect, dignity and inclusive practices at the forefront.

Implementation

- Educators are involved in developing, reviewing and implementing all recommended healthy, hygiene and infection control measures and progressive evaluations of these.
- Spill kits containing disposable gloves, paper towel, garbage bags, aprons and facemask, are located in designated areas across the service to be used for the cleaning of bodily fluids such as vomit, urine, faeces or blood. Spill kits will be restocked after each use.
- Educators will model, discuss and encourage children to minimise the spread of disease, such as hand washing, coughing and dental hygiene. Educators will encourage children to practice their own self-help skills. Where children require support and assistance, educators will request or inform children in advance of their intention to initiate a task that involves touching their body and ensuring their right to dignity is respected.
- Educators will adhere to hand washing procedures to minimise the spread of infectious diseases. The wearing of gloves is recommended for some tasks.
- Any clothing soiled by faeces, urine, blood, vomit or any other bodily fluid, is to be placed in a sealed plastic bag in an area inaccessible to children.
- Disposable aprons will be made available for use, as required, including mandatory use during outbreaks.
- Families will be informed of any confirmed cases of infectious diseases present in the service. The service may be required to inform the relevant health authorities and exclusion periods will apply.
- It is recommended that families contact the service if their child is absent.
- If children are unimmunised, they may be excluded from the service, if there is a confirmed communicable disease present in the service.
- Beds and linen supplied by the service will be laundered regularly.
- Children's hats are washed weekly, after each casual use or as required.
- The director or responsible person in charge of the service has the right to exclude children and staff who appear unwell.
- Educators are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.
- Staff will be guided to use appropriate cleaning products to ensure both cleaning and sanitising is carried out effectively.



General Cleaning

- Clean tables, using appropriate cleaning method for tables, as required.
- During meal times, tables used for other activities should have a barrier such as a tablecloth or placements.
- Clean any spills as they occur
- Sweep floors after each meal or if visible waste on floor, mop as required.
- Tidy play areas regularly to prevent tripping hazards. Monitor learning environments for any hazards whilst not compromising learning opportunities.
- Keep benches free of clutter.
- Empty bins regularly throughout the day.
- Carry out messy play in wet areas only.

NB: Sanitising is to occur after cleaning with suitably appropriate product, when cases of vomiting, diarrhoea or other contagious conditions have been present at the service, on all surfaces in all areas.

Bathroom Cleaning Procedure

- Wear gloves, wipe up any spills using paper towel and dispose of in bin.
- Sweep the floor to remove any sand or dirt.
- Clean taps, toilets, sinks, door handles and other surfaces using an approved cleaning product and/or paper towel, as required. Use a separate paper towel for each surface to avoid cross contamination. Dispose of paper towel in bin.
- Use the designated mop and bucket an approved environmentally friendly cleaning product to mop the floor. Wring out mop and leave in the sun to dry, empty bucket correctly.
- Wash hands.
- Record on relevant checklists.
- Restock supplies.
- In the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease or vomiting or diarrhoea, diluted bleach should be used.

Toys

Washing toys regularly and thoroughly assists to reduce the spread of illness.

- Young children often learn through sensory tactile schemas, which include mouthing toys. Mouthed toys need to be removed immediately and place in designed bucket or container, and washed in warm soapy water and air-dried.
- Toys unable to be submerged in water are to be cleaned in the most appropriate manner.
- Wash play area toys (shelves and dramatic play areas) including furniture weekly or more frequently, if required.

Dummies

- Must never be shared by children, and not attached to any chains, ribbons or string.
- When not in use dummies are to be store in individual labelled containers with lids, out of children's reach.
- Sterilise dummies regularly by washing under hot water e.g. if they fall on the floor.



Linen, Cots and Beds

- Linen, cots and beds will be cleaned regularly.
- Treat soiled linen by wearing gloves, soak in designated bucket with nappy soak for a minimum of two (2) hours in the laundry, wash separately and dry in sun or in hot cycle dryer.

Blood

- Avoid direct contact with blood and bodily fluids.
- Cover any cuts or open wounds.
- Where possible, wear gloves to treat an injured child or adult who is bleeding,. If gloves are not available, take the first opportunity to have someone wearing gloves take over from you, and wash your hands.
- When wound is covered and bleeding has stopped, remove gloves, peeling back from wrists, place in a plastic bag and discard of in bin.
- Wash hands thoroughly.
- Clean any blood spills using the most appropriate method for the situation at hand.
- Any items used to assist and support someone who was bleeding, double bag the cloth and dispose of the bag.

Policy Links

Policies:

- Child Protection
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Exclusion
- Food Safety
- Hand Washing
- Immunisation
- Medical Conditions
- Nappy Changing and Toileting
- Supervision
- Sun Protection and Clothing
- Workplace Health and Safety

NQS: 2.1, 202, 3.1 and 7.1

Regulations: 77, 88, 103, 106, 109, 112 and 168

Sources:

- ACT Health
- National Quality Framework
- NBCA Workplace Health and Safety Handbooks
- Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (5th edition) 2013

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Committee Representative Signature:



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