



Control of Infectious Diseases Policy

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Standard 2.1 Each child's health is promoted.

Standard 2.2 Healthy eating and physical activity are embedded in the program for children.

Standard 2.3 Each child is protected.

The control of infectious diseases is a team effort. The following will be of assistance in reducing cross infection:

- Children are not to attend the Service if they are unwell. If a child has been sick they must be well for 24hrs before returning to the service. For example, if a child is absent due to illness or is sent home due to illness they will be unable to attend the next day as a minimum. A doctors certificate may be requested by the Director if in doubt that the child has returned to full health
- A register of illness will be kept at the service to document incidents of infectious diseases. Some diseases require your state authority to be notified. Details at the end of this policy – See Notifiable Diseases
- Notice of an outbreak of an infectious disease will be posted in the Service to advise all parents/guardians
- A display of the current immunisation dates, times and locations that the Service has available will be shown in the Service.
- The Service will initiate an Immunisation Book check every 6 months to ensure that the Service has the most current immunisation records of each child
- It is the responsibility of the family to keep the Service informed of any immunisation updates that their child has had.
- Children and staff are to wash their hands upon arrival at and departure from the Service to reduce the spread of any infection, either in the home or at the Service
- Educators are to wash their hands after changing nappies (as well as wearing a clean pair of gloves per nappy change procedure) or after assisting a child on the toilet. Gloves will also be worn when coming into contact with any other bodily fluid plus hands are to be washed after gloves are removed.
- Children will be reminded and assisted where necessary to wash their hands after going to the toilet. Children will be shown, and observed, for correct hand washing techniques. Teachers are to role model appropriate hand washing.
- Child friendly picture signs will be evident in the bathroom showing the children the correct toileting procedure

- Clean tablecloths or place mats are used on the tables for each meal.
- Paper towel and 'Clean Shot' is used to clean beds after each child. Clean sheets are to be provided by parent's/guardian for each child and laundered after use or weekly as a minimum.
- Children will rest 'head to toe' to avoid cross infection while resting or asleep
- Children are not to share beds at the same time
- Paper towel is used for floors, bathroom, art and craft and meal surfaces.
- Toys and equipment that are porous and hard to clean will be aired in sunlight
- Washable toys and equipment will be washed in detergent and hot water in the laundry and aired to dry
- Any toy that is mouthed by a child is to be placed immediately in the toys basket located on the top shelf in the laundry area to be washed with warm soapy water at the end of the day. All washable toys are to be washed on Friday to decrease the risk of cross contamination.
- All cleaning procedures will be recorded on the Service's Cleaning Checklist.
- Furnishings, fabric tablecloths and pillowcases are to be laundered at the end of each week and hung out to dry. This will be increased to every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during winter months or during an outbreak of illness in the Service.
- Floor surfaces are to be cleaned on a daily basis after each meal and at the end of each day
- Toilets/bathrooms are to be disinfected in the middle of the day, the end of the day and whenever needed throughout the day.
- Disposable paper towel and disinfectant are used to clean bodily fluids off beds, floors, bathrooms, etc.

Our Service is not equipped to care for sick children; however we will do everything we can to comfort a child who has become sick whilst in our care. To try and prevent the spread of disease, please monitor your child's health and watch for:

Runny, green nose

High temperature

Diarrhoea

Red, swollen or discharging eyes

Vomiting

Rashes

Irritability, unusually tired or lethargic

Please do not bring your child to the centre if they display any of the above symptoms.

- If a child becomes ill whilst at the Service the child's parents or person responsible for the child will be contacted to organise collection of the child. If the child is unable to

be collected, that child will be kept away from other children and given the opportunity to rest or play with a quiet washable activity whilst remaining within adult supervision

- When the child is collected, the family will have the following information made available to them to present to their doctor: symptoms, date of onset, general behaviour of the child leading up to the illness and any action taken.
- A Doctors certificate may be required prior to returning to the Service. If your child has been away due to illness, please check with the Service as to whether or not you will need a certificate before your child returns.

All staff must adhere to the following in order to ensure a safe hygienic environment for all:

- Educators are to treat all bodily fluids as infectious and protect themselves, and others, accordingly to avoid risk of infection
- Mops used for toilet accidents are to be soaked in disinfectant in a bucket in the laundry sink
- Educators will include topics such as cough etiquette in their programming, particularly during pre-winter and winter seasons to educate the children on their role and responsibility in containing germs.
- A weekly clean will be carried out on other surfaces that may transmit germs such as doorknobs, low shelving, etc. This will be increased if an outbreak has been recorded in the Service
- Children and Educators will be required to wash their hands before handling any food. If Educators are handling food other than their own, gloves will be worn.
- Please note that clothes soiled due to a toileting accident cannot be washed at the Service due to the risk of spreading infections. The items will be placed in a double plastic bag for you to take home. Please ensure that you provide sufficient spare clothing
- If a pregnant staff member develops a rash or has had contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash or rash illness, this should be investigated by their doctor/antenatal team. This would include exposure to rubella (German measles), measles, parvovirus B19 (slapped cheek syndrome/fifth disease). It also includes exposure to chickenpox or shingles if the pregnant woman has not had chickenpox previously.

Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods – Staying Healthy 5th Edition 2013

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55e_exclusion_period_poster_130701.pdf

Notification of Infectious Diseases -

Report all cases of notifiable infectious diseases and conditions residing in the Perth Metropolitan area to the:

Communicable Disease Control Directorate Phone: 9388 4852

After hours emergency phone: 9328 0553

Fax: 9388 4848

Postal address: PO Box 8172, Perth Business Centre WA 6849

[Email cdc@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:cdc@health.wa.gov.au)

This policy was made with consideration to the Staying Healthy in Childcare- 5th Edition 2013
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood
Settings: A Guideline for Early Childhood Service Providers, Guideline for the Control of Infectious
Diseases in Child Care

Date that the policy was last updated or revised: April 2016

Signature of Nominated Supervisor: _____

Nurture and Nature Private Preschool