

4.3 Hygiene Policy

Policy Statement

For the ongoing and general health and safety of the children, the service strives to ensure, for its children and educators, a standard of general hygiene which complies, at a minimum, with legal requirements and, as far as reasonably possible, with the standards expected in the wider community.

Procedures

Use of gloves

When, cleaning, or otherwise having contact with bodily fluids (e.g. blood, mucus, vomit, urine, faeces, etc.), disposable gloves will be worn.

When preparing food glove should be worn however the use of hand wash and sanitizer will suffice.

Used gloves are to be carefully and securely disposed of immediately after use.

Hand Hygiene

The best way to prevent the transmission of disease is through effective hand hygiene, which removes both dirt and germs from the hands. This will be performed in the first instance with soap and running water, and/if soap and water is not available a hand rub will be used.

Soap and Water

Educators will wash their hands, and ensure that children wash their hands, thoroughly with soap, water and single use paper towel/hand dryer:

- Before handling, preparing and eating of food
- Prior to and after giving first aid
- After toileting, handling of animals or other activities which could lead to the spread of infection
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose; and
- After contact with/cleaning of body fluids (blood, mucus, vomit, urine, faeces etc.).

Hand Rubs

Children with visible dirt, grease or food on their hands will be directed to clean their hands with soap and water (when and where possible), rather than use a hand rub.

Hand rubs do not replace soap and running water however, they are effective in certain situations, such as when soap and running water are not available. To use a hand rub:

- Apply the recommended amount onto dry hands
- Rub hands together so the hand rub comes in contact with all parts of the hands
- Keep rubbing until the cleaner has evaporated and hands are dry.

Noticeable signs/posters will be placed around the service to alert children to the need for and the steps to follow for effective hand hygiene.

Educators will Endeavor to observe children’s practices when performing hand hygiene providing verbal reminders of effective procedures to follow.

References

- Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
- Duty of Care
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- NQS Area: 2.1.3, 2.1.4; 2.2.1; 4.2.1; 7.1.2, 7.3.5.
- Policies: 4.1 – General Health and Safety, 4.2 – Infectious Diseases, 4.4 – Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 4.5 – Illness and Injury, 4.9 Children’s Toileting, 4.12 – Non-Smoking, 5.1 – Food Handling and Storage, 5.5 – Cleaning and Sanitising.

Date of Development	Reason for Modification	Date Ratified	Date of Review