

Health, Hygiene and Infection Control

Legislation: Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012; 167; 179; 189
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012; 77; 88; 106; 109; 110; 112; 115
National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 3.1

SOURCES:

Staying Healthy, Preventing Infectious diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th Edition. – Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council.(NHMRC)

Professional Development and Support for Children's Service in Australia
<http://www.pscalliance.org.au>

Communicable Disease Guidelines

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/471/2/cd-guidelines-2012.pdf>

Policy Statement

Unicare aims to promote a healthy environment in which children will grow and learn about the world around them. The service is committed to protecting children and educators through the implementation and monitoring of recommended hygiene and infection control strategies. The application of preventative measures through an infection control process aims to prevent the spread of infections and will be followed by all people in the Education and Care Service.

HOW POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED (Specific Policies & Procedures):

Hygiene

- *The rules of hygiene will be included in the children's curriculum. Educators will actively role model effective hygiene procedures.*
- *Hand washing is considered to be the most effective way of controlling infection in the Service. Educators and children should wash their hands:*
 - *when arriving at the centre to reduce the introduction of germs.*
 - *before all clean tasks eg handling and preparing food and eating.*
 - *after all dirty tasks eg nappy changing, toileting, cleaning up faeces, vomit or blood, wiping a nose, playing outside, handling animals.*
 - *before going home to prevent taking germs home.*

- *Alcohol based hand sanitisers may be utilised in situations where it may not be practical to wash hands, for example on an excursion or in the outdoor environment.*
- *The laundry area will include a washing machine, trough, hot water supply and sink, adequate for the needs of the service. The laundry is located in a position which prevents unsupervised access by children. (Education and Care Service National Regulations; 106)*
- *The Education and Care Service will ensure that hand washing facilities are easily accessible to children and educators and are adequately maintained.*
- *Notices which clearly explain effective hand washing procedures will be displayed next to hand washing basins.*
- *Educators will use separate cloths or tissues to wipe different children's faces and noses. Tissues will be disposed of immediately after wiping a child's nose and effective hand washing will occur after wiping each child's nose.*
- *Each child will have their own bedding which will be washed at least once a week or after soiling.*
- *Educators will use colour coded cloths for cleaning different areas.*
- **Any animal or bird kept at the Education and Care Service will be kept in an area that is separate and apart from any area used by children and will be maintained in a clean and healthy condition. Children will be supervised by an adult during contact with animals and discouraged from putting their faces close to animals. Children will wash their hands after touching animals.**

Immunisation

- *Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to immunise their child against all diseases appropriate to the child's age. **A record of the child's current immunisation status will be kept at the service.***
- **Children who are not immunised, or do not have a complete immunisation record, will be excluded from care during outbreaks of some infectious diseases** *in accordance with the National Health & Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines, even if their child is well.*
- *The Education and Care service will have available up to date resources for families and educators.*
- *It is recommended that educators and staff are immunised as per the 'Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition' recommendations 4.2.1.*

Exclusion

- **Information about the service's exclusion policy in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council is provided to parents *within the Parent Handbook.***
- **Children and staff with infectious diseases will be excluded from the Service in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines.**
- *The service will display a notice to notify staff members, parents of enrolled children and visitors to the centre, of exclusion due to infectious disease. In addition emails and fact sheets may be forward to families and educators.*
- *If a child is unwell at home families are asked not to bring them to the service.*
- *If an Educator/staff member is unwell they should not report to work. They should contact the Director/Assistant Director at the earliest possible time to advise of their inability to report to work.*
- *In the case of serious ill health or hospitalisation, the child or staff member will require a medical certificate/clearance verifying that their recovery is sufficient to enable their return to the service, from their registered medical practitioner.*
- *In the case of onset of illness whilst at the Education and Care Service please refer to the Illness, Medication and Medical Conditions policy.*

Toileting and Nappy Change

- *Where possible nappy changes will only take place in the designated appropriately resourced nappy change area. Educators will interact with children in relaxed and positive ways, promote 'learning is everywhere' and ensure this special one to one time is utilised.*
- *The procedure for nappy changing as recommended by NHMRC Staying Healthy in Child Care will be displayed at each nappy change area and educators and staff are required to follow the procedure at all times.*
- *Nappy change and toileting areas will be cleaned at the end of each day by washing down with warm water and detergent.*
- *The Education and Care service will ensure that developmentally appropriate toilets and hand washing facilities are easily accessible to children. Children will be adequately supervised and independence promoted as children are encouraged to flush toilets, and wash and dry hands.*
- *Educators will work in collaboration with families with regard to toilet training ensuring children are developmentally and emotionally ready. Families will be required to supply adequate changes of clothing.*

- *Information on toilet training will be readily available for families and educators.*

Blood and Bodily fluids

- *Blood and bodily fluids are potentially infections. When cleaning such spills educators will take necessary precautions to protect children, educators and staff:*
 - Wear gloves
 - Place paper towel over spill and soak in, carefully place in a plastic bag, seal and dispose of in the rubbish bin.
 - Remove gloves and place in the rubbish bin.
 - Clean area with warm water and detergent using a disposable cloth and place in the rubbish bin.
 - Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water .
 - In the event of blood contamination first aid procedures will be followed.

Head Lice

- *Educators will discreetly examine the heads of children who scratch a lot to look for eggs or lice near the scalp.*
- *Where eggs/lice are present educators will attempt ensure close head contact does not occur.*
- *Families will be informed if lice/eggs are detected and asked to keep away until effective treatment has commenced.*
- *Information will be provided to families from NHMRC Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition recommendations for head lice.*
- *When an incident of head lice occurs families will be notified and asked to check their children.*
- *Educators with long hair will be required to wear their hair tied up.*

Equipment

- *Toys, equipment and dress up clothes will be washed regularly including; after being mouthed by a child, after being handled by a child who is sick and before putting away after use. One criteria for selecting new toys will be their ease to clean.*
- *Surfaces will be cleaned with detergent after each activity and all surfaces cleaned thoroughly daily. Floors and carpets in all rooms will be washed and vacuumed each day. Areas contaminated with body fluids will be disinfected.*

- *Each child will be provided with their own drinking and eating utensils at each mealtime. These utensils will be washed after each use. Educators will aim to ensure that children do not use drinking or eating utensils which have been used by another child or dropped on the floor.*
- *Educators will ensure that children do not eat food that has been handled by another child or that has been dropped on the floor. Food handling guidelines will be followed when using food as an activity for consumption.*

Environment

- **All staff will ensure that every effort is made to maintain a high standard of hygiene in the provision of the child care service including the maintenance of all equipment and furnishings in a thoroughly safe, clean and hygienic condition and in good repair. In this regard staff will report any equipment and/or area that is not clean or in a safe condition or any evidence of vermin to the Director/Assistant Director.**
- *The Education and Care Service is a no smoking environment.*
- *To ensure all children attending the service are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultra violet rays of the sun, educators will consistently follow the services sun protection policy.*
- *All areas of the Education and Care Service will be adequately ventilated, have adequate natural light and maintained at a temperature that ensures children's safety and wellbeing.*
- *All windows and doors will be flyscreened, or buildings will be protected against flying insects.*
- *Effective pest management control will be implemented at least 6 monthly or more regularly if required.*
- *All educators will ensure that lighting, heating and noise levels are comfortable and take into account specific activities (eg sleep time) and individual needs.*
- *Sandpits are a potential source of infection. They need to be well maintained and kept clean, covered at the end of each day and raked daily. Sand that is contaminated by animal or human faeces, blood or other bodily fluids should be removed and disposed of.*