

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

PURPOSE:

For the practices of hand washing of both children's and staff's hands to be of paramount importance and to ensure that these practices are carried out via guidance from this policy. To minimise the risk of an outbreak of an infectious illness that the centre comes into contact with and follow procedures if this event does occur.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Elder Street Early Childhood Centre is committed to establishing and maintaining the highest possible standard of hygiene and infection control through:

- The implementation of procedures to ensure personal hygiene for staff and children
- Cleaning regimes for staff and after hours contract cleaners
- Implementation of thorough Medical and Isolation procedures which minimize the risk of cross infection.

HAND WASHING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- Hand washing should take 10-15 seconds using liquid soap and warm running water.
- All surfaces of the hands should be cleaned, lathering vigorously the front, back and sides of the hands, wrists, between fingers and under nails.
- Rinse hands with fingers pointing down for another ten seconds.
- Count to ten as you wash and rinse.
- Dry hands with a single use paper towel.
- When practicable use a moisturising hand lotion to prevent cracked skin developing.
- Children will be taught to wash their hands in this way as part of the daily program.
- Activity sessions should include songs and stories with hand washing as a topic.
- Teach children that washing their hands will prevent the spreads of germs and illness.
- Supervise children to ensure they develop good hand washing habits.

WASHING BABIES HANDS

- If a baby is able to stand at an appropriate sized hand basin, you need to wash and dry their hands just as you would for yourself.
- If the baby is unable to stand at a hand basin, wash their hands with either pre-moistened towelettes or wet disposable cloths, then pat dry with paper towel.

Staff will strictly adhere to procedures and wash their hands:

- On arrival at the centre, before commencing work and at the end of each day.
- Before and after administration of medication and first aid
- After visiting the toilet
- After each nappy change and changing children's soiled clothes.
- After toileting children

- After using a handkerchief or tissue
- After handling garbage
- After handling body fluids
- Before handling raw food
- Before serving and preparing food
- Before eating
- After every break
- After removing gloves
- After handling animals
- After coming in from outside play
- After cleaning up blood, faeces or vomit or any other unhygienic practice

Any staff members with cuts or abrasions should ensure that they are covered with an occlusive dressing.

Children will wash their hands:

- On arrival at the centre reducing the introduction of germs
- Before setting tables and serving food
- Before eating
- After going to the toilet
- After touching nose secretions and using a tissue or handkerchief
- Before participating in cooking activities
- After nappy changing
- After handling animals
- Any other unhygienic practices
- Babies hands will be washed after each nappy change and frequently throughout the day.
- Before going home preventing taking any germs home.

In the event of an infectious illness outbreak, with 2 or more children reporting with similar symptoms, the centre will continue to follow all procedures in place and also advise parents of such an illness having contact with the service.

The centre's contract cleaners will be advised and noted to take extra care and effort whilst cleaning surfaces and staff will also monitor children closely for any further signs or symptoms. Older children will be reminded of the importance of thorough hand washing and younger children will continue normal practices ensuring all steps of our policy are adhered to.

Certain illness will need to be reported to the Health Department – refer to Staying Healthy in Childcare 4th Edition for further information.

Reviewed: 10 June 2005

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17 May 2006

Source: Staying Healthy in Childcare 3rd Edition NSW Health
Department
National Childcare Accreditation Council
Managing OH&S in Children's Services – S. Tarrant Lady Gowrie
Centre
Staying Health in Childcare 4th Edition National Health and
Medical Research Council December 2005