



Immunisation & Infection Control Policy

Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association recognises that the provision of a safe and healthy environment is the responsibility of all concerned – parents, educators, management and children. It is not possible to prevent the spread of all infections and illnesses within or preschools; however, by adopting safe practices we can minimise the risk of infection and the spread of illness. Procedures and guidelines adopted by the Association are based on recommendations in the National Health and Medical Research Council publication “Staying Healthy in Childcare”, fifth edition,

Safe Practices

- Educators and children will wash their hands on arrival at preschool.
- Educators are to encourage appropriate hand washing techniques and be role models for the children.
- Toys and surfaces will be regularly cleaned.
- Hands must be washed before preparing, or eating food.
- Educators will closely supervise any contact with animals at the preschool.
- Blood and other body substances must be disposed of as if infectious.
- A record of illness in both Educators and children will be kept with the medical records.
- Appropriate safe practices will be identified to all preschool visitor

Universal Infection Control Guidelines

Effective control of infectious diseases requires the assumption that anyone is potentially infectious and should therefore be treated accordingly.

- Educators must have access to hygienic gloves (non latex) at all times, as well as any other resources necessary to maintain safe working practices.
- Gloves must be worn when handling or cleaning up all body fluids.
- When cleaning a spillage of blood please use attached sheet.
- When cleaning a spillage of Faeces, vomit and urine:
 - Wear gloves.
 - Place paper towel over the spill and allow the spill to soak in. Carefully remove the paper towel and any solid matter. Place it in a plastic bag or alternative, seal the bag and put it in the rubbish bin.
 - Clean the surface with warm water and detergent, and allow to dry.
 - If the spill came from a person who is known or suspected to have an infectious disease (e.g. diarrhea or vomit from a child with gastroenteritis), use a disinfectant on the surface after cleaning it with detergent and warm water.
 - Wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water (preferably warm water).
- Needles must be disposed of in a proper “sharps disposal container”.



Immunisation

- Parents will be asked to provide a current copy of their child's immunisation records. If the child has not been immunised parents will need to provide a letter from their Doctor to verify reasons for not completing immunisations.
- Children who are not fully immunised will be required to stay at home during outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps and rubella.
- At this stage, unimmunised children will not be excluded in the case of varicella (chicken pox)

Exclusion of Sick Children

- Parents and educators are asked to follow the minimum exclusion periods recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council.
- A copy of minimum exclusion periods will be displayed at each preschool. (See P. 17, 18, 19 Staying Healthy in Childcare)
- Parents will be requested to keep their child at home if the child has a temperature of 38 degrees, or has had vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- If a child is not coping at preschool – is tired, lethargic and not wanting to participate – the parents will be contacted and requested to take the child home from preschool.

Head lice

- To prevent the spread of head lice, children will be excluded from preschool until appropriate treatment has been carried out - this will include application of head lice hair wash treatment and combing of hair with a lice comb to remove all live lice and eggs. If the presence of lice is detected on a child while at preschool, parents will be contacted to collect the child and apply appropriate head lice treatments. Parents of the infected child will be given information on how to treat head lice and teachers will notify the families of the children who attend the same group that there has been a reported case of head lice in the group.

Further reading:

- 1) *Staying Healthy in Childcare, fifth edition.*
- 2) Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association, *Staff Immunisation & Infection Control Policy*



See also - Cleaning Blood Spills Procedure

When cleaning a spillage of Faeces, vomit and urine:

- Wear gloves.
- Place paper towel over the spill and allow the spill to soak in. Carefully remove the paper towel and any solid matter. Place it in a plastic bag or alternative, seal the bag and put it in the rubbish bin.
- Clean the surface with warm water and detergent, and allow to dry.
- If the spill came from a person who is known or suspected to have an infectious disease (e.g. diarrhea or vomit from a child with gastroenteritis), use a disinfectant on the surface after cleaning it with detergent and warm water.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water (preferably warm water).