



Dubbo West Public School Preschool

Procedure: Dealing with Infectious Diseases

Links to relevant legislation:

Regulation 77 (2)

Links to National Quality Standard:

Element 2.1.4

Element 2.1.3

Links to EYLF:



Date to be reviewed:

July 2020

Introduction:

The Regulations highlight the need to minimise health risks for young children by using appropriate health and hygiene practices.

Regulation 77 (2) *The nominated supervisor of an education and care service must implement, and ensure that all staff members of, and volunteers at, the service implement –*

(a) adequate health and hygiene practices

When children attend preschool their exposure to infectious conditions may increase simply because they have age-characteristic behaviours that help spread infection. They may also be exposed to other children who are contagious without recognisable symptoms. Therefore, children need guidance and support to develop good hygiene habits such as hand washing.

The use of detergent or soap and water when doing basic cleaning such as wiping table surfaces and/or toys, and wearing gloves when required can reduce the risk of spreading infection amongst children, staff and visitors.

Maintaining hygiene practices within the centre and teaching young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases. Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

Aims:

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised by:

- following all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases;
- promotion of practices that reduce the transmission of infection;
- the exclusion of sick children and staff;
- service support for child immunisation;

- display of infectious disease notifications and
- implementation of effective hand washing procedures.

Procedures:

The National Health and Medical Research Council and the Department's Standard Precautions for Infection Control recommend ways to reduce health risks:

Staff will:

- use colour-coded cleaning cloths for different areas and cleaning uses:
 - At Dubbo West Public School Preschool our cloth code is
 - Pink for Food
 - Blue for Craft
 - Green for Kitchen
 - Yellow for Bathroom
 - Posters will be displayed in all areas to inform staff of the code
- ensure tissues and paper towels are not used for more than one child
- use tissues when wiping a child's nose
- after wiping a child's nose, wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- dispose of gloves, paper towels and tissues immediately after use into a bin
- ensure children do not share personal items
- ensure hand basins are not used for food and drink preparation or rinsing soiled clothing
- be careful with all bodily fluids, secretions and excreta
- use disposable gloves at all times when dealing with bodily fluids, secretions or excreta
- display hygiene procedures in bathrooms and toilet areas
- regularly revisit proper hygiene habits such as hand washing (see Hand washing Procedure) and nose blowing (see Nose Blowing Procedure)
- provide families with relevant infectious diseases, health and hygiene information as required
- ensure staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves
- maintain relevant records regarding the current status of the immunisation of children at the service, as well as any relevant medical conditions of children at the service
- Use paper towel or mop for floor spills.
- Use nappy disposal bins

Staff will also:

- Provide relevant sourced materials to families about:
 - The current NSW Immunisation Schedule for children;
 - Exclusion guidelines for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all of their immunisations in the event of an infectious illness at the service, upon induction at the service;
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any confirmed infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the service – All infectious diseases identified at the centre will be notified to parents by the Infectious Diseases Notification Form displayed on the front door of the preschool and next to the sign in sheet.
 - Provide information on illnesses (as soon as practicable after the occurrence of an infectious disease) including the nature of the illness, the incubation period and the infectious and exclusion periods (to be displayed next to the notification).

Families will:

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status, and provide written documentation of this for the centre to copy and keep with the child's enrolment records
- Advise the centre when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to the service to ensure that enrolment records are up to date

