

Child Health



Policy

Janelle Street Centre will provide a safe and healthy environment for children in our care, the staff who supervise them and the families with whom we come in contact. The health and hygiene practices we will employ will have regard to community standards and government guidelines.

Background

The National Quality Framework and associated regulatory system is enacted through the legislation establishing the national system. The *Education and Care Services National Regulations* support the legislation and provide detail on a range of operational requirements for an education and care service. These regulations place upon us a legislative responsibility to ensure risks to children in the area of child health are minimized. Part 4.2 Child Health and Safety, Clauses 77 to 84 of the regulations are our guide in child health.

Practices

All educators will take responsibility for providing a healthy and hygienic environment for both themselves and families.

No alcohol will be permitted or consumed on the premises at any time.

Smoking or illicit drugs will not be permitted on the premises at any time.

Educators will apply the guidelines identified in 'Staying Healthy in Child Care' (5th edition) in identifying infectious diseases and the necessary exclusion times in each case.

If a child is not their usual self e.g. extra cuddly/emotional/lethargic and therefore unable to remain at the Centre, parents will be requested to collect the child. In cases where parents/guardians cannot be reached, the child's emergency contact will be notified and requested to collect the child.

If there is an outbreak of an immunisable disease, Hunter New England Health (HNEH – the appropriate Authority) will be notified and the Responsible Person will follow up and notify parents of the exclusion period as instructed by HNEH.

Where an injury to a child occurs, appropriate first aid will be applied, and the Parents/guardians notified, if deemed necessary. The staff reserves the right to call an ambulance and seek medical assistance.

Exclusion Policy

The Centre has a **24 hour** exclusion policy for general illnesses. Exclusion for **24 hours** gives the temperature, vomiting or other symptoms time to subside and for normal activity and diet to be reintroduced.

Exclusion prevents transmission of the disease to others and also assists in the recovery of the sick child.

Each child and educator must be well enough to attend and participate fully in activities.

Children requiring one on one care and attention need home care. Exclusion applies even if it has not been possible to provide a specific diagnosis of the child's illness.

24 hour exclusion after a temperature means the temperature has stayed at the "normal level" (between 36-37°C) for 24 hours without Paracetamol or any other administered agent.

If a child is suspected of having an infectious disease the following procedure will be adhered to by staff:

Isolation of the child if possible and ensure comfort:

- Contact of family requesting immediate collection of the child.
- Disinfection of bedding, utensils, toys and airing of these.
- Notification of HNEH if it is part of an outbreak.
- Notification of other families by placing a sign on the front exit door (if there are two cases within a week) and on the door of the room applicable.
- Notification of DoE (Department of Education) (if required).
- Minimisation of the spread of infection through contact with bodily fluids by washing skin with soapy water, using disposable gloves, cleaning up spills with disinfectant and a disposable cloth which will be disposed of in a sealed plastic bag and placed in an outside bin.
- Towels and washers which have bodily fluids on them will be double-bagged and disposed of in an outside bin. Toys will be washed with disinfectant and sun-dried if possible.

Other procedures that will be followed include:

- Daily washing and disinfecting of all toys in the Nursery and any mouthed or dirty toys in older children's rooms.
- Washing of bedding between every use by a different child.
- Wiping down all beds and cots with disinfectant after use by each child.
- Wiping over tables with a spray and wipe solution after each meal and at the end of each day if the tables are used again.
- Wiping over highchairs with spray and wipe solution after use by each child.

Cleaners will vacuum and mop all floors with disinfectant daily.

If a child requires hospitalisation after being involved in an accident, the child's parents/guardians, the Department of Education and the approved provider will be notified.

If a child in care dies immediate notice will be given to the child's parents, DoE, the police and the approved provider of the Centre by the staff.

• Sources

- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/fever-sheet.html?WT.ac=p-ra> (accessed October 12, 2023)
- Staying Healthy in Child Care (5th Edition)
- Christie, T (2006) The Essential ECE Handbook
- www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au (accessed October 12, 2023)
- www.legislation.nsw.gov.au (accessed October 12, 2023)

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