



NARNIA EARLY LEARNING

ACN 002 919 584

(Administered by St. Philip's Christian Education Foundation Ltd.)

HYGIENE AND INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

Aim:

To provide a safe and hygienic environment for children, families and staff.

Explanation:

It is important that educator's role model positive health practices and that children are appropriately supervised, assisted and encouraged in their daily health and hygiene routines. Education and care environments must be hygienically maintained to reduce the possible spread of infection and illnesses.

Implementation:

The staff will endeavour to implement the following precautions and procedures to the greatest extent possible under the circumstances on any given day.

All staff, parents and visitor to use hand sanitiser on entering the service.

Educators will:

- Engage in training, research and professional development about current hygiene and infection control practices.
- Be responsible for routine cleaning of the education and care service. This will include sweeping and mopping floors after meal and activity times, wiping tables with neutral detergent before and after meals, sanitising food areas before use, washing toys and equipment after use; and particularly after children have mouthed toys. The sandpits will be covered each night and the sand cleaned routinely.
- Ensure that children's hand washing areas have a visual procedure available for children to refer to. Educators will role model correct hand washing techniques and give verbal reminders to children when washing hands.
- Monitor children's health and wellbeing while they are at the education and care service. Educators will observe children's activity carefully. If a child shows symptoms such as lethargy, high temperature, vomiting, skin rash, difficulty in breathing, stomach pains/cramps, diarrhea or when educators have concerns about a child's health, they will immediately inform the family to arrange collection of the child.
- Wear gloves (non latex) at all times when assisting a child with soiled or who have wet their clothing, and during nappy change and toileting routines.
- Cover any cuts, abrasions, dermatitis or open skin on hands with a water resistant, occlusive dressing.
- Clean nappy change mats and areas after each use following the *Nappy Change Procedure*.
- Spot Clean nappy change and bathroom areas as required during the day.
- Effectively manage bodily fluid spills and accidents. The educator will: avoid direct contact with the spill; use personal protective equipment such as gloves; contain the spill as far as possible using paper towel, disposing of it in a sealed plastic waste bag; clean the spill using neutral detergent; dry and ventilate the area.
- Be provided with access to personal protective equipment (PPE) when dealing with bodily fluids, cleaning chemicals and the like.
- Store and/or dispose of soiled clothing items appropriately. These will be stored out of reach of children in the bathroom in a sealed plastic bag. A note will be placed in the sign in book for parents to collect and launder.
- Encourage children to cover their noses and mouths when sneezing or coughing and to wash and dry their hands afterwards. Model this behaviour.

- Wear vinyl gloves when serving and preparing food. Children's cups, plates and bowls along with all kitchen utensils used in the preparation of food will be sanitised in the dishwasher.
- Use every precaution to minimise the risk of infection within the education and care service environment for themselves, the children and the families.
- Ensure children are given opportunities to learn about health and hygiene related issues throughout the year. This will include visits by health professionals to the centre to learn about relevant issues.
- Access to laundry facilities ensure staff are able to effectively clean linen.
- Use colour coded sponges for cleaning different areas.
- During times of infectious outbreaks, cleaning will be increased. Please see COVID Cleaning Procedures.

Evaluation

The safety and well-being of the educators, families and children will be the priority of the education and care service. Effective hygiene practices will be implemented by the education and care service to minimise the risk of infection spreading.