



Nature Alliance Family Day Care Service

Infectious Diseases



POLICIES IN THIS SECTION AS REQUIRED BY:

Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012: Section 3(2)(a); 167; 179;189

Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2012 – ‘Regulations’:88 (1)(2); 96 106; 109; 110; 115

National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care (2010) Standard 1. Element 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.2.2

PROCEDURES:

Procedures to minimise the risk of cross infection are to be in line with the recommendations outlined in *Staying in Childcare* and Health Department of Western Australia Communicable Disease Publication <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-preventing-infectious-diseases-early-childhood-education-and-care-services>

1. Hand cleansing
2. Exclusion Guidelines
3. Immunisation
4. Nappy changing
5. Cleaning the Family Day Care residence and approved venue
6. Dealing with spills of blood and bodily fluids
7. Animals

Preventative Practices to Minimise the Spread of Infection

1. In the event of an outbreak of a pandemic or communicable disease, processes to minimise the level of contact with the community will be put in place. This may include but not limited to the following:
2. Parents to drop and collect children at the stipulated entrance to the service or they must wash/sanitise hands if required to enter the premises.
3. All parties must follow the current Government Guidelines during this period.

Hand Cleansing procedures are an integral part of the Family Day Care Educator’s daily routine. The Family Day Care Educator will maintain universal hygiene practices at all times.

When to cleanse hands

Children:

1. On entry to the service (recommended)
2. Prior to eating or handling foods.
3. Before and after meals and snacks.
4. After having nappies changed and toileting.
5. After handling of animals

Family Day Care Educator:

1. Prior to preparing foods.
2. Before and after meals and snacks.
3. Before and after changing nappies.
4. Before and after administering first aid.

5. After handling of animals.
6. After wiping nose secretions.
7. After coming in contact with blood and bodily fluids.

Exclusion of sick children

1. If a child shows symptoms of being unwell the Educator should follow the guidelines outlined in their own Health and Safety Policy or Parent Handbook.
2. Unwell children should be excluded if they show signs of fever or any respiratory problems or require a level of care and attention that would be detrimental to the safety and well-being of the Educator or other children in care.

Communicable Diseases (not notifiable)

1. If a diagnosed medical condition is a communicable disease determined by a medical practitioner, the exclusion period according to the Communicable Diseases Guidelines will be followed.
2. Notify all parents as soon as practicable
3. Advise the parents when their child can return to the Family Day Care residence.

Notifiable Diseases

1. Parents advise the Educator of a child with a notifiable disease
2. Educator notifies the Family Day Care Service.
3. Service notifies the relevant regulatory authority and Health Department
4. Health Department will advise all relevant parties

Immunisation

1. A copy of the Medicare Immunisation History Statement must be provided at the time of enrolment.
2. Advise the parent with a child who has not been fully immunised that their child may be excluded from care depending on the advice from the relevant authority.

Nappy changing

Apply nappy changing procedure in accordance with Staying Healthy in Childcare
Use the following method to stop diseases spreading through contact with faeces:

1. Cleanse your hands.
2. Place paper on the change table if desired.
3. Recommended that gloves be worn when changing nappies.
4. Remove the child's nappy and put it in a 'hands-free' lidded bin.
5. Remove any clothes with urine and/or faeces on them.
6. Clean the child's bottom.
7. Remove the paper and put it in a 'hands-free' lidded bin.
8. Remove your gloves now, before you touch the child's clean clothes.
9. Remove gloves by peeling them back from your wrists, turning them inside out as you go. Do not let your skin touch the outer contaminated surface of the glove. Put the gloves in the bin.
10. Dress the child. Clean and dry the child's hands.
11. Take the child away from the change table.
12. Clean the change table with detergent and warm water, paying particular attention to the mat, at the completion of each nappy change.
13. Clean your hands.

Cleaning the Family Day Care residence and approved venue

1. All toys and equipment used by children must be kept clean and in good condition at all times.
2. Infant toys must be cleaned regularly and maintained in a hygienic manner.

3. Clean all areas and equipment used by children with detergent and warm water, then allow to dry.
4. All registered areas and furniture used in providing education and care must be safe, clean and in good repair.

Dealing with spills of blood and bodily fluids

Family Day Care Educators will:

1. Ensure use of hygiene and infection control precautions by all people in contact with children in the Family Day Care residence and/or venue.
2. Wash hands and skin with warm, soapy water after any contact with blood, faeces, urine, vomit or any other body fluids.
3. Wear gloves where possible to clean up spilt blood, faeces, urine, vomit or other body fluids with neutral detergent and water, and regularly wash floors, toileting and nappy change areas, nappy change surfaces and mats, play equipment and toys.
4. Ensure all cuts, abrasions, dermatitis or open wounds on their hands are covered with a water-resistant dressing, which should be changed each time it is soiled or wet.
5. Dispose of soiled disposable nappies. Clean soiled cloth nappies and clothes, towels, washing cloths, linen, and equipment.
6. Prevent any sharing of combs, brushes, toothbrushes, bottles, dummies, pacifiers, towels, facecloths and handkerchiefs.
7. Use gloves when applying first aid to bleeding wounds.

Practice:

If exposed to blood or bodily fluids (via needle stick injury; skin contact; splash into eyes, nose or mouth; or biting):

- i) seek medical advice as soon as practical about risk of infection and post exposure treatment
1. For needle stick or sharps injuries involving exposure of any educators or children to blood or body fluids:
 - i) wash the injured area with soap and running water;
 - ii) dry the wound and cover with a water-resistant dressing;
 - iii) dispose of the object that caused the injury, wear gloves and use forceps or tongs to pick up the object, and discard into a sealed firm container to be disposed of (preferably a yellow biohazard sharps container which are commercially available);
 - iv) additional advice can be obtained from contacting the ASC Needle Stick Injury Hotline on 1800 804 823.
2. For skin contact with blood and or bodily fluids:
 - i) wash off with warm water and soap as soon as possible, and cover all open skin with a water-resistant dressing;
 - ii) if splashes into eyes, rinse for 5 to 10 minutes with water, or a sterile eye irrigation solution if available. If wearing contact lenses, rinse the eyes with the lenses in, remove the lenses and rinse the eyes again, and do not put the contaminated lenses back in;
 - iii) if splashes into the nose or mouth, blow your nose or spit out and rinse with water
4. For clothes, toys or other objects that have been contaminated by blood or body fluids, wear gloves, mop excess fluid with disposable paper towel, and wash with detergent and water.
5. To clean a blood spill on the floor:
 - i) avoid direct contact with the spill;
 - ii) wear gloves and eye protection and disposable mask if eye or face splashes are likely;
 - iii) contain the spill as far as possible by placing absorbent paper or paper towel around the edges of the spill, mop up as much as possible with absorbent paper, discard into a sealed heavy plastic bag and dispose;

- iv) clean up the remaining spill and contaminated surface with detergent and water;
- v) dry or ventilate the area, discard all gloves and disposable materials into a sealed heavy plastic bag for disposal;
- vi) any contaminated clothing, cloths or cleaning implements should be washed in detergent and hot water. If using a washing machine, wash contaminated and non-contaminated materials separately, use the longest cycle for contaminated material, and if washing by hand, wear gloves;
- vii) for spills onto carpet or upholstered furniture, wear gloves, mop up as much excess fluid as possible with absorbent paper, clean with a detergent and water, and shampoo with an industrial carpet cleaner as soon as possible.

Recording and reporting practices:

1. Family Day Care Educators are to notify the Family Day Care Service and attend their doctor if they think that they have been exposed to blood borne diseases or to blood or body fluid from a needle stick, sharps injury, splash into the face, eyes, mouth or nose or contact with an open wound, regardless of the known or presumed infections status of the person or child who is the source of the blood or body fluid.
2. If a Family Day Care Educator believes a child has been exposed to blood borne diseases or to blood or body fluid from a needle stick, sharps injury, splash into the face, eyes, mouth or nose or contact with an open wound, regardless of the known or presumed infections status of the person or child who is the source of the blood or body fluid they are to notify the Family Day Care Service and parents and relevant authorities.
3. Family Day Care Educators must fill in an *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* if they think that they have been exposed to blood borne diseases or to blood or body fluid from a needle stick, sharps injury, splash into the face, eyes, mouth or nose or contact with an open wound, regardless of the known or presumed infections status of the person or child who is the source of the blood or body fluid.

Animals

1. Maintain a vaccination and worming schedule as required.
2. Clean fish tanks regularly and when children are not in care.
3. Cover sand pits, if possible when not in use to prevent animals from accessing.
4. Dispose of animal faeces and litter daily and more often if necessary.
5. Clean any bird cages when children are not in care.
6. If the Family Day Care Educator has any animals or birds as part of their program, any contact must be supervised, or they be in an area inaccessible to the children.

Sandpit maintenance

1. Sandpits must be covered when not in use if possible.
2. All contaminants identified within the sandpit must be removed immediately.

For Family Day Care Educator and/or family members

1. If a Family Day Care Educator or any family member were to be diagnosed with a communicable disease or condition, that person has to be isolated from the children in the Family Day Care residence;
2. The Family Day Care Educator must report any diagnosed communicable disease or condition to the family day care service;
3. The Family Day Care Service will communicate with the Health Department to verify that the Notifiable disease has been formally identified and follow the Health Department instructions.
4. The Family Day Care Service will notify the Department of Education and Care Regulatory unit with 24 hours of receiving the notification.

Related Documents:

NA-FRM 0002 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record
Staying healthy in Childcare Edition 6
The Communicable Diseases Guidelines July 2023