

Tocumwal Pre-School

SECTION: 2 - Children's Health and Safety

POLICY NO: 2.6.4

POLICY: Contact with blood and bodily fluids

REVIEW DATE: 31/5/18

DATE OF APPROVAL:

Introduction

Maintaining high standards of hygiene is essential in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and ensuring good health. Accidental spills and secretions of body fluids will happen within the centre environment. Prompt management of these spills which include blood, faeces, vomit, urine and nasal discharge and dealing with biological hazards effectively reduces the potential risk to children, educators and other staff in education and care services.

Goals – What are we going to do?

The Service aims to maintain a healthy and hygienic environment for children, staff and families by implementing effective strategies to manage contact with blood and bodily fluids. Implementing effective hygiene practices will assist in significantly reducing the likelihood of children or staff becoming ill due to cross-infection or as a result of exposure to materials, surfaces, body fluids or other substances that may cause infection or illness.

National Quality Framework, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

National Quality Standard 2.1 Each child's health and physical is supported and promoted

- 2.1.1 Each child's comfort and wellbeing and provide for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
- 2.1.2 Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
- 2.1.3 Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child

Strategies - How will it be done?

Nominated Supervisor will:

Implement strategies to prevent spills of body fluids including:

- regularly toileting children
- using disposable nappies rather than cloth nappies
- excluding children with vomiting or diarrhoea
- ensuring children play safely.
- Have a spill kit readily accessible for educators and other staff to use. The spill kit can be in the form of a bucket filled with all the necessary equipment to clean up a spill, including:
 - disposable gloves
 - paper towel
 - disposable cloths or sponge
 - detergent
 - disposable scraper and pan to scoop
 - bleach (sodium hypochlorite).
- Exclude children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting from the centre until well (See Section 2 Policy 2.5.3 Infectious Diseases and Exclusion)

Educators will:

Ensure children are supervised at all times and ensure that they play safely. If a child is bleeding or becomes ill resulting in bodily fluid discharge:

- look after the child
- allow the first-aid officer to dress the wound (if appropriate)
- check that no-one else has come in contact with the blood or bodily fluid
- clean up the blood.

Looking after the child

- Avoid contact with the blood.
- Comfort the child and move them to safety, away from other children.
- Put on gloves, if available. (If gloves are not available, take the first opportunity to get someone wearing gloves to take over from you). Then wash your hands. (See Section 2, Policy 2.6.1 Hand washing)
- Apply pressure to the bleeding area with a bandage or paper towel. (See Section 2, Policy 2.8.2 First Aid Information & Contacts)
- Elevate the bleeding area, unless you suspect a broken bone.
- Send for the first-aid officer (if appropriate).
- when cleaning or treating a child's face which has blood on it, ensure you are not at eye level with the child. If you are at eye level and the child is upset, there is a chance, through their crying or coughing for their blood to enter your eyes or mouth.
- When the wound is covered and no longer bleeding, remove your gloves, put them in a plastic bag or alternative, seal the bag and place it in the outdoor rubbish bin inaccessible to children.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and running water (preferably warm water). (See Section 2, Policy 2.6.1 Hand washing)

Check for contact with blood or bodily fluids

- Cover any cuts and abrasions on your hands with a waterproof dressing. Healthy, intact skin is an effective barrier against you becoming infected from spilled blood and other body fluids.
- Ask the adults and children in the area of the spill if they have come into contact with the blood or bodily fluids. If they have, remove any blood from the person with soap and water and make sure they wash their hands thoroughly.
- If blood or bodily fluid enters the eye, rinse the eyes, while they are open, gently but thoroughly for 5-10mins. If blood or bodily fluid enters the mouth, spit it out and then rinse the mouth with water several times.

- Notify the work cover authority if there has been exposure to bodily fluids that may present the risk of the transmission of blood borne diseases.

Cleaning the spill

- Effectively manage bodily fluid spills and accidents. Blood or bodily fluid spills will be isolated with barricades until the educator can remove the spill hygienically.
- avoid direct contact with blood or other fluids where possible.
- wear personal protective equipment including gloves

The best way to clean a blood spill depends on the size of the spill:

- If the blood spill is a spot (drop of blood less than the size of a 50-cent coin) then:
 - wipe up immediately with a damp cloth, tissue or paper towel
 - Place the cloth, tissue or paper towel in a plastic bag or alternative; seal the bag and put it in the rubbish bin
 - Remove gloves and put them in the rubbish bin
 - Wash surface with detergent and warm water
 - Wash your hands with soap and water
- If the blood spill is small (up to the size of the palm of your hand) then:
 - place paper towel over the spill and allow the blood to soak in
 - Carefully lift the paper towel and place it in a plastic bag or alternative; seal the bag and put it in
 - the rubbish bin
 - Remove gloves and put them in the rubbish bin
 - Clean the area with warm water and detergent using a disposable cloth or sponge; place the cloth in the rubbish bin
 - Wipe the area with diluted bleach and allow to dry
 - Wash your hands with soap and water
- If the blood spill is large (bigger than the size of the palm of your hand)
 - Cover the area with an absorbent agent (e.g. kitty litter or sand) and allow the blood to soak in

- Use a disposable scraper and pan to scoop up the absorbent material and any unabsorbed blood or body fluids
 - Place the absorbent agent, the scraper and the pan into a plastic bag or alternative; seal the bag and put in the rubbish bin
 - Remove gloves and put them in the rubbish bin
 - Mop the area with warm water and detergent; wash the mop after use
 - Wipe the area with diluted bleach and allow to dry
 - Wash your hands with soap and water (See Section 2, Policy 2.6.1 Hand washing)
- Spills on carpet should be managed as follows:
 - mop up as much of the spill as possible using disposable towels; then
 - clean with a detergent and arrange for the carpet to be shampooed with an industrial carpet cleaner as soon as possible.

Dealing with nasal discharge

- Encourage children to wipe and blow their own noses, disposing of used in the bin then washing hands (See Section 2, Policy 2.6.1 Hand washing)
- Staff should wash their hands every time after wiping a child's nose to reduce the spread of colds (See Section 2, Policy 2.6.1 Hand washing)
- It is not necessary to wear gloves when wiping a child's nose. If you do wear gloves, you must remove your gloves and wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand rub afterwards.
- Used gloves and tissues must be disposed of safely and appropriately. Remove the glove by pulling over the hand covering the tissue at the same time before disposal in the bin.

Discarded needles and syringes

Another potential source of exposure to blood is from discarded needles. The centre will be checked for contaminants at the beginning of each day (See Section 2, Policy 2.5.4 Risk Management)

If you find a discarded syringe

- Do not attempt to recap the needle;
- Find a rigid-walled, puncture resistant, sealable container;
- Put on gloves;
- Bring the container to the needle/ syringe;
- Pick up the needle/syringe by the middle;
- Keep the sharp end of the needle away from you at all times;
- Place the needle/syringe in the container, sharp end first;
- Securely place lid on the container;
- Place the sealed container into the rubbish bin; and
- Remove gloves and wash and dry hands.

If a needlestick injury occurs:

- Stay calm;
- Staff should wear gloves and encourage the wound to bleed (gently squeeze);
- Wash the area with cold running water and soap;
- Apply an antiseptic and Band-Aid; and
- As soon as possible contact the director and the child's family.

Advice should be sought from a doctor, hospital, sexual health clinic or community health centre for advice about the need for HIV and hepatitis B/C testing, counselling and possible hepatitis B immunisation.

Soiled Clothing

- Place soiled clothes in a labelled plastic bag, tying the top firmly, for parents to take home at the end of the day.

- Store in a bucket with a lid inaccessible to children or animals. Soiled clothes will not be rinsed or washed at the centre. (Explain to parents that washing soiled clothes at the centre can spread germs.)

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

- National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care, Council of Australian Governments February 2018
- Education and Care Services National Amended Regulations 2018, Regulations 77, 85-96,168(2)(b)(c)
- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

Sources

- Community Early Learning Australia
- Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2018)
- National Health and Medical Research Council <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>
- Staying Healthy—Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services NHMRC, 5th Edition 2013 www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch55
- WorkCover NSW - www.workcover.nsw.gov.au