Early Intervention and Preschool Procedure

Dealing with infectious diseases



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| **Current** | September, 2017 |
| **Next Review** | 2018 |
| **Regulation(s)** | R. 88, R. 77 |
| **National Quality Standard(s)** | Standard 2.1: Health-  Each child’s health and physical activity are supported and promoted. |
| **Relevant DoE Policy and link** | [Infection Control Procedures](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/directoratesaz/workhealthsafety/swl/proc/infectioncontrolprocedures.pdf)  [Student Health in NSW Public Schools: A summary and consolidation of policy](file:///C:\Users\mgoss\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.IE5\89J379LY\Student%20Health%20in%20NSW%20Public%20Schools:%20A%20summary%20and%20consolidation%20of%20policy)  [First aid procedures](https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/health-and-safety/emergency-planning-and-incident-response/first-aid) |
| **DoE Preschool Handbook January 2016** | Wellbeing, p. 27-29, 31, 33  *Wellbeing Appendix 2.1*  **Standard precautions for infection control**  *Wellbeing Appendix 2.3*  **Nappy changing and other toileting procedures**  *Wellbeing Appendix 2.4*  **A good practice guide for spilt urine or faeces and cleaning children after wetting or soiling themselves** |
| **Key Resources** | [Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing infectious diseases in child care (5th edition)](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55_staying_healthy_5th_edition_150602.pdf)    [Infection Control Standard Precautions](https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/detresources/Standard_precautions_for_infection_control_imdvCOrWUj.pdf) |

**Common Procedures:**

* The well-being of all children and staff are an essential element of the preschool. Educators, family and children will minimise health risks by using appropriate health and hygiene practices.
* Educators will model and teach hygienic practices such as effective hand washing, disposing of used tissues in the bin.
* If they need to cough or sneeze, the children are encouraged to do so into the crook of their arm, rather than a hand. This way, germs aren’t spread around the preschool as the child touches things and we are able to minimise the spread of infection.
* Detergent or soap and water will be used when doing basic cleaning such as wiping table surfaces and/or toys. When needed, an environmentally friendly product (such as Natura) will be used.
* Educators will support children with their toileting, giving individuals the particular support they need, whilst encouraging them to be responsible for their own toileting and hand washing.
* Families will be asked to keep any child who is unwell at home until they are fully recovered, particularly if they are contagious, have a severe cough, diarrhoea or continually runny nose.
* If a child vomits or has diarrhoea at preschool their parent will be called and asked to collect them. Children are allowed to return to preschool when free from diarrhoea and/ or temperature is normal for 24 hours.
* If a child is suspected of having an infectious disease, for example chicken pox, they will be isolated from the other children, made comfortable and supervised by a staff member until collected.
* Children suffering from certain infectious diseases will be excluded from attending preschool.
* The teacher will inform all parents and carers via an *E-news* alert if there is a confirmed case of an infectious disease or head lice in the preschool.
* If a child contracts a vaccine-preventable disease, preschool staff will tell the principal who will contact parents and the nearest public health unit if necessary. The child must get a medical clearance from a doctor before they return to preschool.
* A child not immunised against an infectious disease another preschool child has, will be asked to stay away from preschool until we get the all clear from NSW Health.
* The office staff will maintain records of when children are turning four and send a reminder letter, requesting they supply the school with an updated immunisation record
* Similarly, the office staff will maintain a record of those children not immunised and phone their parent or carers in the case of an outbreak.
* Educators will reduce health risks by implementing *Standard Precautions for Infection Control;*
* ensure tissues, face cloths or cloth 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 container with a disposable lining
* ensure children do not share cloth towels or other personal items
* ensure hand basins are not used for food and drink preparation or rinsing soiled clothing
* use disposable gloves at all times when dealing with bodily ﬂuids, secretions or excreta and disinfectant for surface cleaning.
* display hygiene procedures in bathrooms, staffroom and toilet areas.
* Hand washing, including drying hands, is one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of infection. For educator’s hand washing will occur:
* on arrival at the preschool
* after going to the toilet
* before and after helping children with toileting (which may include nappy changing)
* before and after giving ﬁrst aid
* before and after giving medication
* after wiping a child’s nose
* before and after eating or handling food
* after patting or touching animals
* before and after preparing or cooking food
* after coming into contact with any bodily fluids, for example when toileting accidents occur or a child is sick

* Alcohol-based hand rubs can also be an effective way of cleaning hands if they aren’t very dirty. This method still requires cleaning between fingers, around thumbs and under nails.
* The children will be explicitly taught how to wash their hands using the following points;
* use soap and running water
* wash hands thoroughly while singing a familiar nursery rhyme, such as *This is the way…wash our hands* or *Happy Birthday.*
* wash all parts of the hands including sides and between the ﬁngers
* rinse hands well to remove soap
* dry hands with a new paper towel or an individual cloth towel.