

Bathing Policy

(Including Guideline for Handling Body Fluids, Cleaning and Bathing)

Published	May 2018
Review Date	November 2019
Sources	<p>Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations, October 2017</p> <p>Guide to the National Quality Standard, October 2018</p> <p>Staying Healthy in Childcare: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care Fifth edition, NHMRC 2012</p> <p>First Aid Workplace Code of Practice 2016</p> <p>Managing OHS in Children's Services, Tarrant. S., 2002</p> <p>Interim Standards for In Home Care, Funding Agreement Requirements, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, February 2008</p>

Aim:

To ensure that Educators implement bathing practices that are safe and respect the dignity and privacy of the child.

Explanation:

During their time with Family Day Care and In Home a child may at some stage require a bath. With the ages of children in care ranging from birth to 18 years (in some special circumstances), it is important that the privacy and dignity of each child is respected, whilst ensuring the safety of the child is maintained.

Responsibilities:

In relation to Co-ordination Unit staff:

- Be aware of their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulations
 - Be aware of their obligations under the Education and Care Services National Regulations and the current National Quality Standard in relation to the bathing of children
 - Be aware of their obligations under the Interim Standards for In Home Care Funding Agreement Requirements 2008 in relation to the bathing of children
 - Resource Educators on the recommended practices for bathing children whilst in childcare
 - Include safe bathing practices as part of the home visits conducted by staff. This may be through discussion or observation
 - Support the family and Educator that have a child with specific health and hygiene needs

In relation to Educators:

- Abide by their obligations under the current Education and Care Services National Regulations and the current National Quality Standard in relation to the bathing of children
- Ensure their home has bathing facilities that are safe and appropriate for the ages of the children at the service
- Maintain constant supervision of any child in the bath, do not leave them on their own at any time
- Have products and equipment for cleaning the bathing facilities stored safely
- Consistently implement Country Children's Early Learning recommended practices (e.g. Guideline: Recommended Practices for, Toileting, Handling Body Fluids, Cleaning and Bathing)
- Respect the dignity and need for privacy of each child during bathing

- Share information about a child's bathing with the child's family
- Consider and accommodate the specific health and hygiene needs of older children in care giving consideration to protecting their dignity and respecting their right to privacy

In relation to Families:

- Work in partnership with Educators and Co-ordination Unit staff to ensure the bathing needs of their child are addressed with consistent, safe and respectful practices

In Home Care:

In relation to Educators:

- Abide by their obligations under the Interim Standards for In Home Care Funding Agreement Requirements 2008 (Standards 12, 12.10) in relation to the bathing of children
- In addition to the information in the preceding policy, In-Home Care Educators will also adhere to the following points which refer directly to the In-Home Care Standards
- Directly supervise children at all times when they are being bathed
- Fill the bath immediately before it is to be used, and empty it immediately after use

Continual Monitoring and Improvement:

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Co-ordination Unit Staff accessing current relevant information
- Co-ordination Unit Staff and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

Policy Review

Date Revised	Comments
March 2012	Added relevant regulations and quality standards in relation to the new Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Quality Standard
January 2013	Added information for In Home Care
November 2013	Scheduled Policy Review – No changes made
May 2015	Scheduled Policy Review – No changes made
November 2017	Scheduled Policy Review – No changes made
May 2018	Updated Regulatory Requirements

Guideline:

Recommended practices for Handling Body Fluids, Cleaning and Bathing

In relation to Handling Body Fluids:

- Avoid direct contact with blood or other body fluids
- 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. If blood does enter the eye, rinse the eyes, while they are open, gently but thoroughly for at least 30 seconds. If blood does enter the mouth, spit it out and then rinse the mouth with water several times
- Wear gloves if possible
- 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
- Supervise children at all times, ensuring safety and safe play is a priority
- When a child is injured, there are several things you will need to do. These include:
 - Looking after the child
 - Checking that no-one else has come into contact with the injured child's blood
 - Cleaning up the blood
- Regularly toilet children
- Exclude children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting
- It is suggested that equipment used for body fluid spills is stored together to enable rapid ease of access

In relation to Cleaning:

The home and all equipment and furnishings used in providing the service should be maintained in good repair at all times and kept in a safe, clean and hygienic condition.

- Wash toys and equipment on a regular basis in warm water and detergent. Many toys can be cleaned in the dishwasher
- Books, which are visibly dirty, should be wiped with warm soapy water and dried in the sun
- Dummies and bottles must NOT be shared
- All surfaces, which are touched frequently, such as tables, cots, floors, toilets, door handles should be cleaned daily

Disinfectants

Disinfectants are usually not necessary. Most germs do not survive for long on clean surfaces when exposed to air and light. Even in hospitals, the emphasis is on the use of detergents and effective cleaning and drying procedures, rather than the use of disinfectants.

There is no ideal disinfectant

Disinfectants cannot kill germs if the surface is not clean. It is more important to make sure

that all surfaces have been cleaned with detergent and warm water than to use a disinfectant.

Detergents

- Effective cleaning with detergent and warm water, followed by rinsing and drying removes the bulk of germs from surfaces
- Germs are unable to multiply on clean, dry surfaces
- Ensure that cleaning equipment is cleaned and stored so it can dry between uses
- Cleaning equipment should be well maintained, and designed to reduce dust during use
- Appropriate equipment includes mops with detachable heads (to allow for laundering in washing machine using hot water) or cloths that are disposable or can be laundered

Recommended cleaning procedures:

- Do not use strong chemicals, i.e. bleach or cleaning powders
- Use all-purpose household cleaners – not anti-bacterial
- Ensure spray bottles are clearly labelled with the contents of the bottle
- Always use gloves and wash hands after removing
- Cleaning cloths and mops need to be well dried after use – sunlight is excellent

In relation to Bathing:

- Ensure the water temperature is tepid, not too hot
- Supervise children when bathing at all times
- Ensure the dignity and need for privacy of each child is respected during bathing, nappy changing and toileting