Hills Grammar

Hand Washing Procedure

Statement

The ECEC aims to promote a healthy environment in which children will grow and learn about the world around them. Everyday preventative measures such as hand washing will be an effective way of preventing the spread of infection when children are spending time at ECEC.

Rationale

One of the three most important ways of preventing the spread of infectious diseases is effective hand washing. Educators, staff and children need to wash and dry their hands effectively to decrease the amount of disease in children, educators and staff.

Strategies

The ECEC will ensure that safe, well maintained age appropriate basins are available for washing hands. Basins are situated in the bathrooms of each of the 5 rooms. The ECEC will provide paper towel for drying hands, and soap (or sanitizer) is available for children, families, visitors, staff and educators at the ECEC.

Staff and children are encouraged to wash their hands:

- On arrival.
- Before and after cooking or preparing food.
- Before and after eating or handling food.
- After playing outdoors.
- After all dirty tasks e.g. nappy changing, toileting, putting hands in their mouth or noses cleaning up faeces, vomit or blood, wiping a nose.
- After giving first aid.
- Before and after giving a child medication.
- Before going home.

Educators are to role model appropriate hand washing procedures to the children and are to observe the children as they engage in this process, ensuring correct procedures are being followed throughout the day.

Educators regularly engage the children in group conversations where they discuss the importance of handwashing and maintaining a hygienic environment.

Educators will place signs outlining the handwashing routines in each bathroom, providing the children with visual support as they wash their hands.

Hand washing procedure:

- Wet hands with running water
- Apply soap to hands
- Lather soap and run hands thoroughly, including the wrists, the palms, between the fingers and under nails. Rub hands for 20- 30 seconds
- Rinse hands thoroughly under water
- Dry thoroughly with paper towel

Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer is available for families, educators and staff as they enter the ECEC. In addition staff and educators can use hand sanitizer during the day if necessary. It is stored out of reach of the children.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

Staying Healthy in Childcare 6th Edition

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.