Hills Grammar

Hygiene and Infection Control Procedure

Statement

It is important that educator's role model positive health practices, and that children are supported in their health and hygiene routines. The ECEC must be hygienically maintained to reduce the possible spread of infection and illnesses. ECEC will remain hygienically maintained to reduce the possible spread of infection and illness.

Rationale

The ECEC aims to maintain a healthy and hygienic environment for children, educators and families by providing professional cleaning services on a daily basis. The ECEC will ensure that procedures are implemented to minimise the potential risk of disease and illness. These procedures will include:

- Spot and routine cleaning by educators.
- Effective hand washing practices.
- Identifying and excluding sick children and educators.
- Maintaining updated immunisation records.
- Effective handling, storage and disposal of soiled items.
- The use of personal protection equipment.
- Sharing hygiene routines and information with families.

Strategies

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Oversee procedures that prevent the spread of infectious diseases are designed to be implemented by educators.
- Oversee that in the event of an infectious disease being identified within the children, families, staff or educators in the ECEC, steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease.
- Maintain up to date immunisation records for all children.
- Overses educators implement cleaning systems that prevent contamination and cross infection.
- When appropriate, use the guidelines set out by Staying Healthy in Child Care (6th Edn) as a resource.
- If an outbreak of a notifiable disease, including gastroenteritis occurs, contact NSW Health and follow their advice and procedures.
- If a positive case of COVID-19 is identified in a child, staff member or visitor to ECEC, follow the current guidelines from NSW Health and follow the steps outlined by the Regulatory Authority.
- If an outbreak of a notifiable disease, including gastroenteritis, as well as notifying the Regulatory Authority, notify all families and educators in the ECEC, and provide them with steps to follow developed by NSW Health.
- Organise a deep clean of ECEC if a positive case of COVID-19, gastroenteritis or infectious disease is identified in a child, staff member or visitor attending ECEC.
- Log any requests for cleaning of items such as soiled carpets with the Hills Grammar cleaning company.
- Monitor sand cleanliness and arrange for a change or topping up as required.

- Remind staff, families and visitors that if they or their ECEC child is unwell or displays illness symptoms, that they should stay home until symptoms are resolved or bring a current clearance letter from a doctor.

Educators will:

- Be responsible for routine cleaning of the ECEC. This will include sweeping floors after meal and activity times, wiping tables with soapy water, sanitizing toys and equipment routinely or as needed.
- Ensure that children's hand washing areas have a visual procedure available for children to follow.
- Role model correct hand washing techniques and give verbal and physical support to children when washing hands.
- Wear gloves when assisting a child with soiled or wet clothing, and during nappy change and toileting routines.
- Wear gloves when serving and preparing food.
- Tie long hair back before serving food to children.
- Clean the nappy change mat and area after each use following the ECEC Nappy Change Policy.
- Effectively manage bodily spills and accidents.
- Store and dispose of soiled items appropriately.
- Encourage children to cough and sneeze into the crease of their elbow and to wash and dry their hands afterwards.
- Role model appropriate hygiene procedures. Encourage children to cover their noses and mouths with their elbow when sneezing and coughing and to wash and dry their hands afterwards. Role model this behaviour to support children.
- Monitor children's health and wellbeing while they are at the ECEC. If a child shows symptoms of ill health, inform the nominated supervisor and contact the family for the child to be collected from the ECEC to avoid the spread of illness.
- Where possible isolate the unwell child from others until they are collected from ECEC.
- Ensure resources accessed by the children are regularly cleaned and in the event of a case of gastro or COVID, clean all resources touched by the child with warm soapy water and where possible, air dry.

Families will:

- Be guided by information provided by the Nominated Supervisor in relation to an outbreak of a notifiable disease, including gastroenteritis or COVID-19.
- Collect their child in a timely manner if their child is unwell and families have been notified of this by ECEC staff.
- Inform the ECEC if their child is unwell with any illness.
- Follow all NSW Health guidelines regarding isolation if their child or family member is unwell and keep their child away from the ECEC until they are well enough to attend care.

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.