

# **HYGIENE POLICY**



## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The purpose of this policy is to promote a hygienic environment at Reid Early Childhood Centre (RECC) and encourage practices which promote the health and well-being of children and staff at RECC..

## **HYGIENE/INFECTION CONTROL**

- Regular cleaning of the whole centre is necessary to prevent the spread of infection;
  - The centre will be cleaned daily to remove dirt and food from the floors and furniture, disinfect toilet/bathroom fixtures and remove all rubbish.
  - The sand, tanbark, paths and grassed areas are monitored regularly to ensure they are maintained in a safe manner (e.g. not contaminated by pests or animals).
  - Infant's equipment is washed and disinfected with Neutral Cleaner or Concentrated Deodoriser at least twice a week, this includes but not limited to plastic dolls, books, blocks, puzzles, cars and rattles.
  - Nappy changing pads are disinfected after each individual nappy change in accordance with the Nappy Change, Toileting and Accident Procedure.
  - Toys which are mouthed are cleaned daily with Neutral Cleaner and left overnight to air dry.
  - Each child has his/her own bed linen, that is laundered weekly, or more often as required.
  - Beds, sleeping mats and cots are disinfected after each child.
- Staff wash their hands with soap and water and use gloves. If hands are not visibly soiled, staff are encouraged to use sanitizer as it is generally more time efficient, more effective in decreasing bacterial growth on hands, causes less skin irritation, readily available and compared to soap, water and paper towel it is more cost effective.
  - before handling food and before serving children snacks and meals.
  - before and after nappy changing or assisting children with toileting or noise wiping, and
  - before (if possible) and after giving first aid.
- Parents/guardians are asked to wash their child's hands on arrival and departure from the RECC. Reminders are provided through posters and email and fortnightly

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newsletters. The Parent Information Handbook also informs parents/guardians of this practice

- Children are encouraged, and where necessary assisted, to wash their hands before handling food or eating, and after toileting and nose wiping.
- When water and soap are unavailable (i.e. when on an excursion) hands are cleaned with hand sanitiser before handling food or eating.
- All sicknesses are recorded in a sickness register to monitor patterns of illness and enable appropriate precautionary action to be taken.
- Hygiene practices are incorporated into RECC programs (hand washing routine), including group sessions focussing on the importance of hygiene.
- When purchasing toys, consideration is given to how easy they are to maintain and clean.

## Hygiene Policy

### **RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

Bathroom Cleaning Routine

Illness Policy

Nappy Change and Toileting Policy

Nappy Change, Toileting and Accident Procedures

Work Health and Safety Policy

Sleep and Rest Policy

### **REFERENCES:**

National Health and Medical Research Council June 2013, *Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood and Care Services*.

[www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55\\_staying\\_healthy\\_childcare\\_5th\\_edition\\_O.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55_staying_healthy_childcare_5th_edition_O.pdf)

2015 Hand Hygiene Australia [www.hha.org.au](http://www.hha.org.au) as cited on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 at 2230.

Handwashing Australia – Government, National Health and Medical research – Staying Healthy in Childcare as cited on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April at 2230.