

51. Toileting



Introduction

Many diseases are spread by faeces, urine or other bodily fluids. Risk and spread of infectious diseases are significantly reduced by safe toileting and toilet training methods. Toileting facilities must be appropriate for the number and ages of children in care.

Purpose

The centre will minimise the spread and risks of infectious diseases between children, other children and children's centre staff and educators, by ensuring toileting and toilet training is conducted in an efficient way according to recommended guidelines and standards.

Goals – What are we going to do?

Develop procedures to minimise the risks and the spread of infectious diseases that are transmitted by faeces and other bodily fluids or through toileting or toilet training of children.

Toileting will meet individual children's needs and occur at anytime throughout the day. Children who toilet by themselves should have access to the toilets at all times.

When younger children are ready and begin toilet training educators, staff and parents will consult with each other and devise a plan to ensure that it is stress-free as possible and that continuity between home and the centre is maintained.

Strategies – How will it be done?

To minimise the risks and the spread of infectious diseases that are transmitted by faeces and other bodily fluids or through toileting or toilet training of children, the centre will:

- Have adequate, safe, well maintained, age appropriate toilet, washing and drying facilities, which comply with the Building Code of Australia.
- Provide facilities for physically disabled children when and as needed
- Provide non-slip flooring
- Ensure the location and design of the toilet, washing and drying facilities enable safe use and convenient access by the children.
- Encourage children to flush the toilet after use, and assist or teach children to wash their hands after toileting using the guidelines outlined on the hand washing policy
- Place any soiled clothes in a sealed plastic bag, clearly labelled with the child's name, for the family to take home, and keep inaccessible to children.
- Use a toilet in preference to a potty to reduce the risk of the spread of disease.

If a potty is used then follow the below procedure after each use of a potty:

- Wear single use non-latex gloves
- Empty potty into toilet
- Wash potty with warm water and neutral detergent using paper towel
- Do not rinse or wash potty in a sink used for hand-washing
- Wash hands after handling potty
- Assist children to wash their hands, and ensure all educators and staff wash their hands after any contact with faeces, urine, vomit or any body fluids.

Use the following guide for children learning to toilet train:

- Ask families to supply several changes of clothing and underwear
- Prompt children by asking or reminding them about using the toilet
- Put on gloves (single use non-latex)
- Place any soiled clothes in a sealed plastic bag, clearly labelled with the child's name, for families to take home, and keep inaccessible to children
- Assist the child to independently undress/dress
- Help the child use the toilet
- Allow the child to take their time, avoid pressuring or rushing them
- Assist the child to wash their hands
- Remove gloves and wash hands afterwards

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider will:

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations.
- Ensure staff and educators are being respectful and sensitive to children's dignity and rights to privacy.

Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure toileting routines are conducted in ways that maintain hygiene standards, with interactions that are warm and responsive.
- Ensure nappy change and toileting procedures are displayed to ensure a consistent approach.
- Discuss with families their cultural practices and beliefs and how they align with the centres policies and procedures (included in the centre enrolment form)

Educators will:

- Always be positive about toilet training so that your encouragement is reinforced in your language and actions.
- Support children's agency to develop an understanding and control of their own bodily functions.
- Help children to develop and extend their self-help skills.
- Communicate with families to maintain consistency between home and the centre

Families will:

- Communicate with Nominated Supervisor, educators and staff to maintain consistency between the centre and home.

Related Legislation

- Education and Care Services National Law Act
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Links to other policies and documents

- Hand Washing Policy
- Nappy Change Policy and Procedure
- Interactions with Children

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations:
77, 106, 109

Links to National Quality Standards/Elements:
1.1, 2.1, 5.1, 5.2

Sources

- Staying Healthy in Childcare

QUALITY AREA 2

TOILETING AND NAPPY CHANGING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

Safe and hygienic practices ensure children experience toileting and nappy changing that supports their health and well-being. Appropriate, respectful procedures and practices can promote learning and capacity building.

“Children’s developing resilience and their ability to take increasing responsibility for self-help and basic health routines promote a sense of independence and confidence.”

(Early Years Learning Framework, p30 / Framework for School Age Care, p29)

SUPPORTIVE PRACTICES

There are a range of practical strategies to support children’s positive nappy changing and toileting experiences.

These include:

- Allowing children to take their time, avoiding pressuring them
- Responding to children’s cues and allowing them to be active participants in the process
- Where possible, using the correct terms for going to the toilet - ask families what words they use at home, as consistent language between home and care will help children to understand and learn more easily
- Being sensitive to individual children’s needs and styles, and tailoring individual nappy change and toileting procedures to each child
- Prompting children by asking or reminding them about using the toilet
- Taking full advantage of every opportunity for a focused, positive interaction with children during toileting and nappy change times, however brief these might be
- Always being positive about toilet training so that your encouragement is reinforced in your language and actions
- Being respectful and sensitive to children's dignity and rights to privacy