



# Management of Incident, Injury, Illness & Trauma

## POLICY STATEMENT:

*Our service* aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of educators, children, and visitors, within the service and on excursions, through proper care and attention in the event of an incident, injury, illness or trauma. The service will make every attempt to ensure sound management of the event to prevent any worsening of the situation and complete reports on each event that will be signed by the family of the child involved. Family members or emergency contacts will be informed immediately where the incident, injury, illness, or trauma is deemed serious and be reported to the NSW Regulatory Authority as per the National Law and Regulations.

## PROCEDURE:

### a) **Enrolment Information**

- Families are required to provide written consent for educators to seek medical attention for their child, if required, as part of the enrolment process. This will be recorded in the enrolment form.
- Families will be required to supply details of their preferred doctor, dentist, health fund and Medicare details.
- Educators will be required to supply two contact numbers in case of an emergency or accident.

### b) **Incident, injury or trauma to a child whilst in the service**

- If a child, educator, or visitor has an accident while at the centre, an educator who holds a first aid certificate will attend them to immediately.
- Anyone injured will be kept under adult supervision until they recover and an authorised person takes charge of them.
- In the case of a major incident, injury, illness or trauma at the service requiring more than basic first aid, the first aid attendant will:
  1. Assess the injury, and decide whether the injured person needs to be attended to by a doctor or whether an ambulance should be called. The educator in charge or nominated supervisor will be advised of their decision.



2. If the injury is serious, the first priority is to get immediate medical attention. Families or emergency contacts should be notified straight away where possible. If not possible, there should be no delay in organising proper medical treatment.
3. Attend to the injured person and apply first aid as required.
4. Educators will ensure that disposable gloves are used with any contact with blood or bodily fluids as per the infectious disease policy.
5. Educators will stay with child until suitable help arrives, or further treatment taken.
6. The educators will try to make the child comfortable and reassure them that they will be ok and that their families have been called.
7. If an ambulance is required and the child is taken to hospital, an educator will accompany the child and take the child's medical records with them.
8. Complete a centre accident report and a serious incident report for the regulatory authority.

Another educator will:

1. Notify family or emergency contact person immediately regarding what happened and the action that is being taken including clear directions of where the child is being taken (e.g. hospital). Every effort must be made not to cause panic and to provide minimal detail regarding the extent of the injuries
  2. Ensure that all blood or bodily fluids are cleaned up in a safe manner.
  3. Ensure that anyone who has come in contact with any blood or fluids washes their hands in warm soapy water.
  4. Try to reassure the other children and keep them calm, keeping them informed about what is happening, and away from the child.
- Accidents which result in serious incident, injury, illness and trauma (including death) to a child must be reported to:
    - ✓ The ambulance service
    - ✓ The police
    - ✓ Family or emergency contact person
    - ✓ Regulatory Authority
  - The centre will notify the family or emergency contact person that a serious incident has happened and advise them to contact the relevant medical agency. Only a qualified medical practitioner can declare a person is deceased, therefore educators should ensure the parents are only advised that the injury is serious and refer them to the medical agency (i.e. hospital) where the child has been taken.



- This information should be provided in a calm and extremely sensitive manner.
- The site of the accident should not be cleared or any blood or fluids cleaned up until after approval from the Police.
- All other children should be removed away from the scene and if necessary parents contacted for early collection of children. The children should be reassured and notified only that a serious incident has occurred.

**c) Death or Serious Injury to a child or educator out of hours**

- Educators in the service must be prepared to handle all incidents in a professional and sensitive manner. In the event of tragic circumstances such as the death of a child or educator, the educators will follow guidelines as set out below to minimise trauma to the remaining educators and children in the service.
- In the event of the death occurring out of service hours, a clear emergency procedure will be maintained for the other children at the service.
- If a child is the deceased, the Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor should make contact with the child's school to liaise with them regarding the school's response to the event.
- The Nominated Supervisor should also contact the NSW Regulatory Authority as soon as possible and within 24 hours to report the incident. The school and Network of Community Activities should be contacted to seek additional support, resources or advice.

**d) Reporting of Serious Incident, Injury and Trauma**

- All serious incidents, injury, illness or trauma will be recorded within 24 hours of the event occurring. The child's family or emergency contact must be notified of any accident or injury that has occurred to the child as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours after the event.
- The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that, in the event of a serious incident, the regulatory authority is advised as well as the Approved Provider (e.g. Management Committee).
- It may not be until sometime after the incident that it becomes apparent that an incident was serious. If that occurs, the Nominated Supervisor must notify the regulatory authority within 24 hours of becoming aware that the incident was serious.

**e) How to decide if an injury, trauma or illness is a 'serious incident'?**

- If the advice of a medical practitioner was sought or the child attended hospital about the incident, injury, trauma or illness, then the incident is considered 'serious' and the



regulatory authority must be notified.

- An incident, injury, trauma, or illness will be regarded by the service as a 'serious incident' if more than basic first aid was needed to manage the incident, injury, trauma or illness and medical attention was sought for the child, or should have been sought, including attendance at hospital or medical facility for further treatment.

#### **f) Illness**

- Families are advised upon enrolment and in regular reminders not to bring sick children to the service and to arrange prompt collection of children who are unwell. The care needs of a sick child are difficult to meet without dramatically reducing the general level of supervision of the other children, or risking other children's health.
- Where a child takes ill at the service, all care and consideration will be given to comfort the child and minimise the risk of cross infection until the child is collected by the family/emergency contact.
- A child or adult will be considered sick if he/she:
  - Sleeps at unusual times, is lethargic;
  - Has a fever over 38<sup>0</sup>;
  - Is crying constantly from discomfort;
  - Vomits or has diarrhoea;
  - Needs constant one to one care; and
  - Has symptoms of an infectious disease.
- If a child is unwell at home, the family is not permitted to bring the child to the service. Children who appear unwell when being signed in by their parent/ guardian will not be permitted to be left at the service.
- If a child becomes ill whilst at the service, the parents will be contacted to take the child home. Where the family is unavailable, emergency contacts will be called to ensure the child is removed from the service promptly.
- The child who is ill will be comforted, cared for and placed in a quiet isolated area with adult supervision until the child's family or other authorised adult takes them home.
- During a fever, natural methods will be employed to bring the child's temperature down until the family arrives or help is sought. Such methods include removing clothing as required, clear fluids given, tepid sponges administered.
- If a child's temperature is very high, cannot be brought down and their family cannot be contacted, the child's enrolment record will be checked for permission to give paracetamol. If the situation becomes serious, the child will be taken to the doctor or an ambulance called.



- If a staff member becomes ill or develops symptoms at the centre they can return home if able or the Coordinator will organise for someone to take them home.
- The Coordinator will organise a suitable staff replacement as soon as possible.

CONSIDERATIONS:

<b>Education and Care Services National Regulations</b>	<b>National Quality Standard</b>	<b>Other Service policies/documentation</b>	<b>Other</b>
r12, 85, 86, 87, 88	2.1, 17.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parent Handbook</li> <li>- Staff Handbook</li> <li>- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy</li> <li>- Enrolment and Orientation Policy</li> <li>- Administration of Medication Policy</li> <li>- Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy</li> <li>- Administration of First Aid Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work, Health and Safety Act 2011</li> <li>- ACECQA "Frequently Asked Questions"</li> <li>- NSW Department of Health guidelines</li> <li>- Disability Discrimination Act 1975</li> <li>- NSW Anti-discrimination Act 1977</li> <li>- Staying Healthy in Child Care (5<sup>th</sup>Edition)</li> </ul>

**VERSION CONTROL AND ENDORSEMENT**

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