The purpose of this operational policy is to maintain hygiene and teach children hygienic practices.

**Position Statement**

At this centre we promote the health of children and adults, and the children’s families, by reducing the spread of infections transmitted by hands.

**Issue Outline**

Most gastrointestinal infections are spread by poor hand hygiene after toilet use. Viral infections can be spread by nasal secretions on hands and surfaces contaminated by hands.

**Detail**

1. We ensure all children and staff wash hands before eating, after toileting and after messy play. Staff will wash hands before and after food preparation and providing assistance to an injured or unwell person.
2. Adults and children wash both front and back of hands with liquid soap for 20 seconds, and dry hands with paper towels.
3. Babies and toddlers, and new children, are supervised until the process is habitual. Older children are monitored.
4. We read books to children about their bodies, teach them about how diseases are spread and use correct names for body parts.
5. In staff meetings, we raise the issue regularly to remind each other of our role in modelling good practice. We wash our hands in front of children and talk about what we are doing and why.
6. We wash babies’ hands during the day if they are sharing toys and before and after they eat.
7. We have stored water and wet wipes to use if the water supply is disrupted.

**Alignment with Other Policies**

- Nappy Changing policy
- Health & Safety policies
Relevant Background (including legislation/regulation references)

Licensing Criteria 2008, Health and Safety, Toilet and Handwashing Facilities:

- **PF20**: Toilet and associated handwashing/drying facilities intended for use by children are:
  - Designed and located to allow children capable of independent toileting to access them safely without adult help; and
  - Adequately separated from areas of the service used for play or food preparation to prevent the spread of infection.
- **PF21**: There is means of drying hands for children and adults that prevents the spread of infection.

Impacts of Policy on Staff, Parents and Children

This policy reduces the chances of children and adults becoming ill through the spread of infection that is transmitted by hands.

Alignment with the Philosophy of [the organisation]

This policy is aligned with our centre’s philosophy.

Implications and/or Risks for [the organisation]

This policy increases parental confidence in the safety of their children while at the centre.

Implementation

This centre displays a poster that demonstrates healthy hand washing techniques. We teach children to use these techniques and share this information with parents.

Review

Review annually or when there is a significant change in the area of the policy topic.

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<td>When required</td>
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