



Soiled Clothing/Nappy change

Quality Area: National Quality Standards/Elements: Children's Health and Safety
2.3.2

Policy Statement

Meeting the needs of children by providing clean nappies and dealing with soiled clothing in a safe and hygienic place for changing children is a basic need that is important for children's comfort and happiness. It is anticipated that nearly all preschool children will be toilet trained. We do however recognise that developmentally there will be the occasional child who may still be using nappies. We also recognise this age group still has toileting accidents or may be suffering from diarrhoea or other bowel complaints.

"Nappy changing and toileting rituals are also valuable opportunities to promote children's learning, meet individual needs and to develop strong relationships with children. Having their needs met in a caring and responsive way builds children's sense of trust and security—which relates strongly to the Early Years Learning Framework." p.66, Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Goals – what are we doing?

Ocean Shores Preschool will follow best practice guidelines for nappy changing to ensure the area is hygienic and to reduce the spread of infectious disease. The preschool aims to make the nappy change experience a relaxed, happy and social routine that provides an opportunity for educators and children to further develop trusting and positive relationships.

The Management Committee will:

- Provide adequate and appropriate hygienic facilities for nappy changing/soiled clothing;
- Ensure nappy change/soiled clothing facilities are designed and located in a way that prevents unsupervised access by children;
- Ensure that adult hand washing facilities are located within the nappy change area;
- Consider access to children's hand washing facilities within the change area;
- Provide a floor mat for nappy changing;
- Ensure that the soiled clothing/nappy change facilities are designed and maintained in a way that facilitates supervision of children at all times, having regard to the need to maintain the rights and dignity of the children.

Nominated Supervisor will:

- Develop and implement policies, procedures and training with educators to ensure nappy change/soiled clothing procedures that support children's safety, protection, relationships and learning.
- Develop systems with educators to ensure that soiled clothing and soiled nappies are disposed of or stored in a location children cannot access.

Educators will:

- Discuss children's individual needs with families to ensure practices are reflective of the home environment and are culturally sensitive;
- Provide information to families regarding children's soiled clothing or nappy change patterns; and
- Utilise nappy change times to interact with children on an individual basis. The nappy change time will allow educators to converse, sing, play and generally interact with the child. This time allows educators and children to learn more about each other and understand each child's personality and personal strengths.

Educators will maintain effective supervision at all times by:

- Fully supervising and maintaining physical contact with children throughout the soiled clothing/nappy change experience. No child will be left alone on a nappy change mat.
- Keeping soiled clothing/nappy change areas fully stocked with all required materials at all times. Educators are responsible for maintaining the supplies to meet the needs of individual children. Supplies will be readily accessible to staff to ensure efficiency and the health and safety of each child.
- Encouraging mobile children to walk to the soiled clothing/nappy change area and Educators will assist the child to lie on the mat. Where a child is not walking, educators will follow manual handling practices to lift and carry the child to the nappy change mat.

Educators will practice effective hygiene by:

- Utilising the 'Staying Healthy in Child Care' practices when changing a nappy to reduce the spread of infection. These are:
 - Wash hands;
 - Place paper towel on the nappy change mat;
 - Put on gloves;
 - Remove the soiled clothing/nappy and place in the disposal bag;
 - Remove any soiled or wet clothing and place in the disposal bag;
 - Clean the child's bottom;
 - Remove the paper towel and put it in the disposal bin;
 - Put the gloves in the disposal bin;
 - Remove the gloves, peeling them back from the wrist and turning them inside out as they are removed;

- If a child requires specific cream, place a clean paper towel under the child's bottom. Put on clean gloves. Place a suitable amount of cream on the glove and spread onto the child's bottom. Remove the paper towel and place it in the disposal bin. Remove the gloves and place in the disposal bin;
- Dress the child;
- Wash and dry their hands;
- Return the child to the play area; and
- Clean the nappy change mat and area with detergent and warm water.

Additional strategies

- Disposal bags will be removed to outside rubbish bin at the completion of change;
- Educators will clean change mats and areas after each use. They will be thoroughly cleaned with vinegar and warm water or with pH Neutral detergent and water and paper towel once during the middle of the day and at the end of each day. Change mats will be placed in direct sunlight after being cleaned. Bleach will be used when diarrhoea or other bowel bug is suspected;
- Children's nappies will be changed at scheduled intervals as determined by the nominated supervisor and educators. Nappies will also be checked throughout the day to ensure children are not susceptible to nappy rash and discomfort. A system to record this routine will be maintained for reporting purposes. (Standards 2.1.2 & 2.3.1);
- Soiled clothing/nappy change and hand washing procedures will be displayed visually and in community languages as appropriate in the nappy change area; and
- Soiled clothing will be placed in the nappy bucket with napsan – then bagged for parent upon arrival.

Evaluation

Nappy change experiences are safe and hygienic. They are considerate of children's diversity and family practices. Children's learning and development is engaged by staff to ensure the experience is relaxing for both children and staff.

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010, Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)
- Australian Standard for storage and handling of hazardous chemicals and materials (AS 3780)

Sources

- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011
workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012/Pages/default.aspx
- Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods: Guidance
www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/storage-handling-dangerous-goods-1354.pdf
- Approved First Aid Qualifications
www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications/approved-first-aid-qualifications
- Health and Safety in Children's Centres: Model Policies and Practices (2nd ed.)
www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/assets/main/documents/childcare_model_policies.pdf

Links to other policies

- Critical Incidents
- Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment
- Medication Administration
- Workplace Health and Safety Policies
- Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011): 77, 106
- Links to National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.3.2