



Written By

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Aim

To ensure bathing procedures are a positive experience for all children, demonstrating respect for their age and level of development, with positive learning outcomes for children while protecting and minimising the risk of infection and cross infection for children, families and Educators.

Strategies

- Children are only to be bathed at preschool if necessary, e.g. if soiled during toileting accident, overly messy from play/ craft activities or high temperature (parent to be contacted).
- Staff are to discourage activities that are likely to result in bathing of the children.
- Staff also to encourage children to wear art smocks during messy and water play.
- The children are also encouraged to remain clothed while at Preschool.
- Children should only be bathed and changed in the designated bathing area (Shower Cubicle in the adult bathroom).
- All hazardous and/or dangerous materials should be labelled and stored in a locked cupboard out of reach of children where bathing occurs.
- Children's bathrooms will be cleaned daily. They will also be checked regularly throughout the day by educators to ensure cleanliness is maintained.

Bathing Procedure:

- Clean clothing and bathing materials to be collected (e.g. changing mat, towels, clothes, plastic bag etc.)
- Staff to wash hands prior to changing child and to use disposable gloves.
- Staff to test and adjust water to appropriate temperature. Ensure water temperature is between 37°C and 38°C.
- Child to be changed by Preschool staff only and then moved to a standing or sitting position in the shower. Children to be bathed in the shower cubicle of the adult bathroom.
- Staff to then wash the child using correct washers (pink washers for bottom, green washers for faces). Staff to talk to the child and reassure during the bathing procedure. This time can be used for 1:1 interactions, language development etc. The child is to then be dried using bath towels and redressed in clean clothes. Both staff and child to wash hands before reintroducing the child back into the preschool activities.
- Staff to then return to the changing area. Soiled/ messy clothing to be rinsed and hung out to dry and/or placed in a plastic bag to be taken home by the child at the end of the day.
- All materials, surfaces and floor area to be cleaned and disinfected using correct cleaning procedures.
- Staff to wash hands thoroughly.
- A "Your Child Has Been Changed Today..." notice is to be completed by staff and placed in the child's bag. Verbal contact with the child's parent is also encouraged.

**Relevant
Legislation**

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
National Quality Standard

**Resources &
References**

The National Quality Standard (2010).
Being, Belonging and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (2009).
Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2011
National Health and Medical Research Council – Staying Healthy in Child Care – 5th
Edition
www.keepwatch.com.au Fact sheet 06, Bathtime Safety

**Relevant
Documentation**

Illness
Workplace Health and Safety

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November 2017

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