

BERMAGUI PRESCHOOL



4.24 Needles and Sharps

Written By

Narelle Myers

Aim

The Preschool will minimise risk of accidental injury and transmission of blood borne infections by safe handling, use and disposing of needles and sharps that have been contaminated by blood or body fluids.

Explanation

Injury or puncture of the skin by a needle or sharp material contaminated by blood or body fluid is a risk for transmission of blood borne infections such as HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. NSW Department of Health has published guidelines on safe handling, use and disposing of needles and sharps. In caring for children with chronic illness such as asthma, diabetes and epilepsy, and in managing acute severe allergic or anaphylaxis reactions, Preschool staff need to be trained to know how to safely handle, use and dispose of needles, syringes and other sharps.

Practices

To minimise the risk of accidental injury and transmission of blood borne infections by safe handling, use and disposing of needles and sharps that have been contaminated by blood or body fluids, staff will:

- Ensure only First Aid Qualified staff will handle, use and dispose of needles and sharps.
- Ensure there are adequate and accessible resources for disposal of sharps which comply with Australian Standards:
 - AS 4031: 'Non Reusable Containers for the Collection of Sharp Medical Items Used in Health care Areas'.
- Dispose of needles, syringes and sharps immediately after use by discarding directly into an impermeable and puncture resistant container designated for disposal of sharps (there are commercially available yellow biohazard containers) that comply with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS 4031 (non-reusable containers).
- Inform the Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person immediately of any sharps injury.
- Apply first aid as required.

Resources & References

Children Services NSW "Model Policies & Practices"
Community Child Care Co-operative "Food Allergies & Anaphylaxis"

Date Adopted:

October 2021

Review Date:

October 2024