

Health & Safety: Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Procedures

Policy/Procedure Number: B 4

Policy/Procedure Requirement: National Quality Standards 2 & 7; Regulations 85, 86, 87 & 168

Policy Statement

The health and wellbeing of children must be safeguarded by managing health and safety risks and seeking appropriate medical treatment in the event of an illness, accident or emergency. This and other related policies and procedures are put in place by the Service to comply with Regulation 85.

Rationale

In the event of an accident or an emergency, the Educator has a 'duty of care' to take immediate action and provide appropriate services or care to those involved.

In the case of serious injury or illness, the Educator is not required to diagnose or treat the condition apart from carrying out the appropriate first aid procedures. Diagnosis and treatment are the responsibility of the ambulance officer or medical practitioner in attendance.

Strategies and Practices

The Coordination Unit Staff will:

- Support Educators with relevant forms for collecting authority and information
- Be familiar with regulatory requirements in relation to dealing with emergency situations with children
- On enrolment of a child, ensure the family has given written authorisation for any Educators or staff member of the Service, to seek and/or carry out emergency ambulance, medical, hospital advice or treatment if required
- Notify the family or emergency contacts under these circumstances as soon as it is possible to do so
- Have current First Aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis qualifications
- Upon receiving notification of a serious incident involving a child attending FDC where the incident results in the child receiving medical, dental or hospital treatment immediately notify the family and the *ACT Children's Policy and Regulation Unit* (within 24 hours)
- Upon receiving notice of a death of a child while being provided with care, the nominated supervisor will immediately notify the child's family, a police officer and the *ACT Children's Policy and Regulation Unit* (within 24 hours)
- Educators will call an ambulance then inform families in the case of an emergency or life-threatening situation (Ambulance coverage is beneficial to avoid full charge liability)

- Keep accurate incident, injury, trauma and illness records and store confidentially until the child is 25 years old
- Provide debriefing sessions and support to Educators who have supported a child through a trauma

Educators will:

- Have current First Aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis qualifications
- Regularly practice emergency procedures
- Take all necessary precautions to reduce the incidence of accidents and injuries that can occur
- Respond effectively by administering first aid or seeking medical attention, should any accidents or injuries occur - e.g. burns, convulsions, fractures, cuts
- Display contact numbers of emergency services, Coordination Unit and families near a telephone
- Maintain an **Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record** in the system or in hard copy
- **Contact the parent or the emergency contact as listed in the enrolment documentation if the child presents with or develops any of the following signs:**
 - Ear and/or eye discharge
 - Undiagnosed rash
 - Body temperature of 37.5 degree Celsius or higher
 - Persistent coughing episodes with difficulty in breathing
 - Open sore with discharge
 - Vomiting and/or continuous loose bowel episodes
- **In the event of an accident, injury, trauma or illness, inform the family or emergency contact** as soon as possible so that they can take over the responsibility of their child and decide on further action if necessary
- **In the event of high fever, implement the following procedures to lower the child's fever and discomfort:**
 - Remove excess clothing to cool the child down;
 - Offer fluids to the child;
 - Encourage the child to rest;
 - Provide a cool, damp cloth for the child's forehead;
 - Monitor the child for any additional symptoms
- Ensure an Educator remains with the child who is unwell, and minimises contact with other children.
- **Inform Parents/guardians of any medical attention given**, medication administered to the child and any other matter concerning the child's health that comes to the notice of the Educator.
- Complete a notice of incident, injury and trauma report immediately, obtain parent signatures and forward to the Coordination Unit as soon as possible
- **Inform the Coordination Unit of any injury to a child** that requires First Aid or medical treatment
- **Inform the Coordination Unit of any serious incident.** In the event of such an emergency occurring outside office hours, the Educator must contact the Coordination Unit staff to inform of the incident
- **Notify their insurance company of any injury** to a child that requires medical treatment

- In the event of the death of a child while being provided with care, the Educator will immediately call an ambulance, the child's family and the Coordination Unit
- If any child requires medical attention for an incident, injury, trauma or illness, the ACT Children's *Policy and Regulation Unit* is required to be notified by the Coordination unit within 24 hours of the incident, injury, trauma or illness occurring

Parents/Guardians will:

- Provide up to date medical and contact information in case of an emergency
- Provide up to date medical management plans if applicable to their child's health
- Review and update medical management plans annually
- Take over the responsibility of their child as a matter of urgency if contacted by their child's Educator to do so
- Be responsible for ambulance cover

Day-to-Day Service Management of Health and Safety Policies

- Reviewed quarterly and as required

Resources and Further Readings

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- ACECQA National; Quality Framework Resource Kit www.acecqa.gov.au
- Childcare Service Handbook 2013-2014

Related FDC Policies, Procedures & Documents

- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record
- Child Enrolment and Parent Agreement Form
- Staying Healthy in Childcare (NHMRC)
- Home Safety Checklist

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