

# HEALTH & SAFETY FOR CHILDREN POLICY

**Rationale:** The health and wellbeing of all who attend Darfield Preschool & Nursery is of paramount importance.

**Purpose:** To comply with relevant legislation at all times to ensure we provide a safe and healthy environment for all staff, children and their parents.

## PROCEDURES

### Cleaning Procedures (HS1)

- The Cleaners employed by Darfield Preschool & Nursery will be used to clean the Centre daily. A schedule of cleaning/job description will be provided to ensure standards are maintained.
- The cleaners will be responsible for general cleaning of the whole Centre, including all hard surfaces and bathroom areas. All cleaning materials used by the cleaners will be brought into the centre by them on a daily basis. General day-to-day cleaning products used by staff will be kept in a cupboard in the staff room out of reach of children.
- Staff will be expected to “clean as they go” ensuring spills and messes are cleaned up immediately.
- Wiping down of eating areas, high chairs, art areas and tidying up of toys will be undertaken by staff.
- Separate cloths for bathroom (Red), general (Blue), kitchen (Yellow), and food (Green) areas will be identified by colour.
- For art and kai areas, a disinfectant solution will be used.
- The carpets will be cleaned quarterly, by the cleaners.
- All toys to be cleaned will be listed on a cleaning roster, and staff will ensure that everything is cleaned at least once a month. Toys mouthed by children will be cleaned daily.
- Playdough will be thrown out at the end of the week. In the event of illness in the centre, playdough will be thrown out each day.
- All toddler beds will be sprayed with disinfectant on a Friday and left to dry.

### Laundry (HS2)

All laundry will be cleaned by staff employed by Darfield Preschool & Nursery. The following procedures will be followed to ensure all linen and resources used by adults and children are hygienically laundered:

- Separate coloured cloths will be used for washing floors, cleaning of equipment, and washing of children. These cloths will be washed separately at all times.
- All washing is separated into 1. Sheets and Blankets 2. Tea towels and dishcloths & Green cloths; 3. Blue Cloths; 4. Flannels and bibs; 5. Floor rugs and outdoor towels and red cloths; and washed separately. Also see the chart on the laundry wall.
- Soiled laundry will be soaked in a stain remover solution prior to laundering.
- Children’s bed linen will be washed on a scheduled basis. Nursery after 5 sleeps. Preschool on the last day of sleeping for the week or each Friday. Each child’s linen will be kept separately within a pillow case and identified by name.
- The washing machine and clothes dryer will not be able to be accessed by children at any time.
- All laundry will be dried outside or by the clothes drier or other hygienic method, folded, and returned to storage areas as appropriate.

## Nappy Changing and Toileting Procedures (HS3)

Teachers will follow the procedures below when changing nappies or toileting:

- Only centre staff or the child's own parent/guardian/whanau may manage toileting routines with the children. Casual relievers will not be rostered for nappy changing or toileting, however regular relievers may, after permission from Centre Manager/Team Leader. Students, not employed at DPN, on placement will be supervised at all times by their associate or another registered teacher if toileting or nappy changing is required.
- Nappy changing will take place only in the designated area, which will be well ventilated at all times.
- Staff will invite children in a positive, friendly manner respecting their dignity and privacy at all times and where possible promoting independent skills.
- Older children are encouraged to use self-help skills in accessing the nappy changing table area via the steps, to ensure staff are not lifting heavier children.
- Children will be given a prompt that they will be taken to the toilet so there is little disruption to play.
- Disposable gloves are provided for staff to be used when changing children. They are a requirement when faeces or blood are present. All gloves will be disposed of between each change.
- Staff will thoroughly wash their hands between changes, with soap and water.
- When changing nappies, staff will ensure they NEVER take a hand off the child on the changing table/mat.
- Changing mats will be sprayed with a diluted Sterigene solution after each change.
- DPN will provide Sudocrem for children that need cream. Parents will authorise this on the enrolment form. Parents are to provide their own if the children requires another brand.(The procedure for documenting application of Category three medications will be followed)
- Disposable nappies are disposed of in the designated receptacle provided.
- Cloth nappies must have a liner, which are to be provided by parents. Contents will be disposed of in the toilet.
- Soiled or wet clothes will be rinsed and put in a wet bag to take home.
- Children who have wet underpants or clothes will be carefully cleaned with a wipe or wet cloth before re-dressing.
- Teachers will respond to "accidents" that do not engender shame or embarrassment.
- The Changing Area is cleaned daily with a bleach solution by the cleaners.
- All nappy changes, toilet reminders and accidents will be recorded on the clipboard provided.
- Potties will be emptied into the toilet and rinsed with bleach solution and washed.
- Children will be encouraged to develop self-managing skills in going to the toilet and staff will be available to support them as necessary.
- Staff and children will wash their hands after toileting.
- Liquid soap and disposable paper towels will be used in the toilet area. Rubbish bins are available for ease of use.
- Teachers will discuss with and support parents when children are showing signs of toilet readiness and teachers will keep parents informed with progress. All teachers will be made aware of the requirements of the child.

## Nappy Changing/Toileting Routine

- Children's nappies will be checked at least every 2-3 hours or as their individual routines require.
- Cloth nappies will be checked on every 1-2 hours.
- If a child's nappy is soiled they are changed immediately once we are aware.
- Children's individual needs regarding toilet training will be taken into consideration with timing of reminders to visit the toilet. Children who have just begun training will be taken hourly.
- Teachers change any soiled/wet nappies as required outside these times.

## Injury Prevention Strategies

- All doors to adult-only areas will be closed at all times, to ensure children do not have access to these areas.
- Cupboards such as the teachers' cupboards, art cupboards and kitchen doors will be inaccessible to children at all times.
- All chemicals will be stored in marked containers and be kept out of the reach of children at all times. This will include cleaning agents.
- Hot drinks will be consumed away from where they could potentially spill on children and lids will be used if possible
- Children will be encouraged not to sit on tables, nor jump off furniture and chairs.
- Children will remain seated while eating and drinking and be supervised by a staff member.
- Staff will, when blood is present, wear gloves at all times. Blood cloths are provided to clean up blood and will be disposed of.
- The environment is checked daily to identify, minimize and isolate hazards for children using the same procedures as for health and safety of Adults.
- The playground is checked for safety of equipment, closed gates, fungi, vandalism, dangerous objects and animal droppings
- The indoor environment is checked by Staff first thing and then throughout the day. Staff will be aware of the potential danger of things such as water spills, and clean them up immediately and ensure exits are always clear.
- Daily checks, indoor and outdoor, are signed on the Daily Safety Check Form.
- Hazards are recorded on the Hazard Identification Record Form and followed up by the Manager and/or Health and Safety Officer.

## Poisonous Plants

- Regular checks will be made by staff through their daily and monthly maintenance checklists. (Mushrooms, Toadstools)
- Before new plants are purchased, they will be checked against current guidelines concerning New Zealand poisonous plants. All plants given as gifts will also be checked.
- Information is available to staff and parents regarding classification of poisonous plants by a poster in the learning environment.
- Staff talk with children about not eating seeds, leaves and plants unless approved by an adult. All plants that are of educational benefit, i.e. swan plants, will be allowed into the Centre provided they are supervised at all times and are kept out of reach of children

## Care of Animals (HS16)

- All animals at the Centre will be restrained as necessary.
- All staff will follow safe and hygienic handling practices before, during and after the handling of animals.
- Children will be taught safe practice in regard to the handling of animals.
- Children and staff will wash their hands following handling of animals.
- During holiday periods and weekends, the safety and health of any animals at the Centre will be provided for at all times.

## Preparation and Eating of Food (HS 19, 20, 21, 22)

- At least one teacher will supervise children while eating.
- Allergies for individual children will be displayed on the lunch board and in the kitchen..
- Staff will ensure all children are provided with drinks at kai times and that they have access to water throughout the day. When eating, children will always be seated and supervised by a teacher.
- Flexible eating routines will be encouraged along with the development of self-help skills.
- It is the responsibility of the Lead Teacher, through the induction process, to ensure that staff are adequately trained in the safe preparation and handling of food.
- If parents provide any food to share for birthdays/leaving, the recipe used will be provided to the centre to ensure the staff are aware of any ingredients that may cause allergies. E.g. birthday treats etc. and recorded in the file held in the kitchen specifically for this purpose.
- Any food provided by the Centre, including baking, will be recorded in the book in the kitchen specifically for this purpose.

### When the Centre provides snacks and/or meals

- The Centre will meet the requirements of the Food Act 2014 National Programme and Ministry of Health 'Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services 2020'.

### When Parents provide food for children

- The Centre will promote safe and hygienic food handling practices.
- The centre will provide parents with the publication from the Ministry of Health, 'Reducing food-related choking for babies and young children at early learning services 2020' to encourage safe practice.
- Parents are asked to bring lunches and food snacks/lunch for their children and are encouraged to include foods that promote healthy eating for children.
- Children's lunch boxes and drink bottles are to be named and placed in the assigned area or refrigerator upon arrival.
- At snack/lunch times, staff will ensure that each child receives their own lunch box.

## Bottle Feeding Procedures (HS23)

- All children under the age of 6 months and other children unable to drink independently will be held semi-upright while drinking their bottle.
- When teachers are feeding infants their bottles (under 15 months old) a ratio of one to one will be used.
- Bottles for children under the age of 6 months will be heated in accordance with parent's instructions. For children over the age of 6 months, bottles will be heated in the microwave unless the milk is breast milk, or as requested otherwise by a parent or caregiver.

## Accident Procedures (HS 25)

- At least two staff will hold a current First Aid Certificate at all times. However, Darfield Preschool & Nursery are dedicated to having as many staff on the premises first aid trained as possible. The management will ensure all staff have the opportunity to complete their first aid training every two years.
- Copies of First Aid Certificates held by staff will be kept in the Centre.
- Management will ensure that all children's records have both parents' current contact numbers and two emergency contacts where possible.

- In the event of an accident the priority will be to administer first aid immediately, then inform the Centre Manager or Team Leader.
- The staff member who performs first aid or witnesses the accident will record the incident in the Accident Register Book, staff will update the tablet with "See Teacher" and ensure parents are informed and asked to sign the accident register as acknowledgement.
- Parents will be phoned and informed of any serious accident or head injury immediately.
- If deemed necessary, a registered/qualified staff member will take the child to the local medical centre with another staff member, and the child's parents/emergency contact person will be called. The staff member will stay with the child while at the medical centre until parents arrive. If more serious, an ambulance will be called and the parents will be contacted immediately. If the parents cannot reach the Centre by the time the ambulance arrives, a staff member will ride to the hospital with the child and meet the parents there.
- If blood and body fluids are present as a result of the accident, staff will clean and disinfect the area using gloves and a bleach solution straight away.
- If a child is admitted as an in-patient to hospital, the Centre Manager will, as soon as they become aware of the hospitalisation, inform Worksafe on 0800 030 040 and the Ministry of Education (03 379 7300) of the incident..

### **Serious Harm or Illness to a Child Procedure (HS 27)**

- All practicable steps will be taken to get immediate assistance for a child who is badly hurt in an accident or becomes seriously ill, and to inform the parents or caregivers of what has occurred. If a child is admitted for treatment more than first aid, the Centre Manager will inform Worksafe on 0800 030 040 of the incident.

In the event of a serious accident or illness to a child, a teacher shall immediately ensure the following steps are taken:

- Attend to the child.
- Seek support from another teacher/s.
- Call appropriate medical assistance.
- Advise the parents/whānau/caregiver.
- If the child is taken to hospital the staff member who had been closest to the incident should accompany them.
- A Serious Harm/Illness Form will be completed.
- An incident investigation will be completed.

The Serious Harm/Illness Form will include:

- The child's name.
- The date, time and description of the incident.
- Actions taken and by whom.
- A space for parents to sign that they have been informed of the incident (see Forms).

### **Incident Investigation**

In the event that an investigation is required, the following process will be followed:

- The staff member closest to the incident will document what occurred.
- Any other staff involved will document their role.
- The Health and Safety Officer and the Manager will go over the report with the teacher to:
  - Identify key triggers to the incident.
  - Minimise the hazard.

- c) Add to the Hazard Identification Register if required.
- d) Evaluate the effectiveness of the procedure and make changes if required.
- e) Store all information in the Incident File in the Manager's Office

## Immunisation Procedures

The Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1995 require that accurate immunisation records are kept of all children on the roll.

- The Ministry of Health requires all licensed Early Childhood Centres to sight and record every child's immunisation history on enrolment, or in the case of a child under 15 months old, once that child reaches the required age.
- These records will be maintained on the Centre computer file and will remain confidential. The Office Administrator is responsible for recording this information.
- In the case of an outbreak, the parents/whānau/guardians of any child who is not immunised, will be advised to keep the child at home until the incubation period of the disease is past and no further cases are reported.

## Illness Procedures (HS 26)

- The Centre will ensure that all children/ staff / parents / visitors to the Centre are protected from contracting infectious diseases.
- Children and adults who are unwell are not to be present at the Centre. Sickness includes vomiting, diarrhea, high temperatures, colds or other flu-like symptoms, conjunctivitis, impetigo and any other contagious illness.
- There must be a period of 24hr absence if a child is diagnosed with having a viral infection.
- If a child has vomiting and diarrhea they must remain absent from the Centre until 48 hours after their last symptoms.
- If a child arrives at the Centre and is clearly not well, staff and Management reserve the right not to allow that child to be left at the Centre. This is for the wellness of that child, other children and staff.
- If parents are called to collect their child due to illness, they must do so as soon as possible. If parents are unable to do so they must then organise someone else to collect their child.
- Parents will be notified, to collect their child if they appear unwell, are unable to actively participate in everyday activities or need support higher than the ratio can provide.
- If the child has a temperature over 38 degrees they are to have the top layer of clothing removed, fluids given orally and monitored over a 15 minute period before the temperature is retaken. If the temperature continues to rise, parents will be informed and the child will need to be collected.
- If a child is sent home with a temperature over 38.5 degrees, they will be unable to return to preschool for 24hrs after the temperature has gone. If a child is sent home and doesn't have a temperature, but was unwell, they can return once the child is well and can participate in everyday activities.
- A current list of infectious diseases consistent with Infectious Diseases for Criterion HS26 will be displayed in the Centre, enabling parents to access the information at all times (see link below).
- If a child has an illness not covered in this policy, teachers will refer to the infectious disease chart to determine the infection period, which will determine how long a child must stay away from the Centre. If the illness is not listed on the infectious disease chart the local Public Health Nurse will be consulted.
- If a child becomes unwell while at the Centre they will be kept at a safe distance from other children and monitored by a staff member until collected by a parent/caregiver.
- Parents are asked to not bring other family members who are sick into the centre eg: siblings who are absent from school with vomiting. Please speak to management if this may cause a problem and we can work something out.

## Administration of Medicine (HS28)

- There are three categories of medicine that require different authorisations from parents:
  1. **Category (i):** non-prescription, provided by the Centre, and kept in the First Aid Kit. (Written authority upon enrolment.)
  2. **Category (ii):** prescription and non-prescription (used for a specific period of time, short term). (Written authority is required at the beginning of each day and will include the name of the medication, the method for administering, the dose, and the time medication is to be given.)
  3. **Category (iii):** prescription and non-prescription (used for the ongoing treatment of pre-diagnosed conditions). (Written authority is required upon enrolment or when it occurs, as part of an Individual Health Plan which will include the name of the medication, the method for administering, the dose, the time the medication is to be given, and the specific symptoms/circumstances in which it should be given.)
- All medicine bottles must be correctly labelled with the child's name and expiry date.
- All Category (ii) or (iii) medication must be handed directly to a staff member, who will place it up high out of the reach of children (or in the refrigerator).
- Medication will not be given if it is out of date, or has been prescribed to someone other than the child.
- All permanent staff, with a first aid certificate, are able to administer medication. All other staff are able to check dosage and witness the administration.
- All medication administered must be recorded including written authority from the parent/caregiver to administer the medicine consistent with the medication category, the name of the medication, the child's name, the amount of medicine given, the date and time the medication was administered and by whom, and evidence of parent acknowledgement that the medication was administered (see Forms).
- Staff will be given appropriate training in the administration of specific medications as required.

## Sick and/or Soiled Children Procedures (HS 30)

### Universal Precautions for Infection Control

In the event of an accident, spillage or contact with any body fluids or discharge, the following universal precautions will be followed:

- All broken skin areas (fresh, unhealed cuts or burns) must be covered with an adhesive dressing.
- When in contact with mucous membranes (eyes, mouth) or broken skin has occurred, it is recommended to wash or sanitise your hands after.
- Plastic aprons (in cupboard in the bathroom) will be used when it is likely that moist body substances will soil clothing.
- Hands must be washed immediately with soap and water if they are potentially contaminated with moist body substances.
- Articles, furniture and floors soiled with moist body substances will be cleaned and appropriately disinfected using household bleach (e.g. Janola) 1:10 (10mls in 100mls of water). This will be left on the area for 10 minutes and the spill wiped up with a cloth soaked in the solution.
- Soiled children will be taken to the nappy changing area to be cleaned and changed. Staff will follow the nappy changing and toileting procedures.

## Supervision of Children Procedures

- Management will ensure adequate staff are present at all times to meet licensing requirements, and to adequately supervise all children in attendance.
- Staff will be rostered to ensure both indoors (including toileting area) and outdoors have adequate supervision.
- Staff or adults visiting or working in the Centre will be well supervised and visible at all times.
- All visitors will be required to sign in/sign out on the tablet under Visitor, with the purpose of the visit.
- When staff leave for morning, lunch and afternoon tea breaks, they must not leave until another staff member has covered their position.
- Staff involved in supervision must not leave children unsupervised under any circumstances unless relieved by another staff member.
- The Person Responsible is the Centre Manager; if this person is not present then it will be the team leader, if they are not present then it will be the lead teachers and if they are not present then it will be allocated to a registered staff member and written on the white board by the Art sink (in the preschool) Kitchen sink (in the nursery) so all staff members can see..
- Children will not be taken off licensed premises by staff unless the excursion policy is followed, the staff member has the explicit permission of the parent/caregiver, in an emergency or if it is their own child.

## Winter

- During the months of May to September, if the temperature falls below 10 degrees, hats and jackets will be worn by children when outside. The centre will provide hats for this purpose and they will be washed at the end of each day.
- During the months of May to September, footwear (shoes, boots, gumboots) and socks will be worn when outside.

## Alcohol or Mind altering substances.

- During the hours the centre is operating and any after-hours functions on the licensed premises, where children are present, no person at the centre will use or be affected by alcohol or any other substance that has a detrimental effect on the person's functioning or behaviour.
- If any teacher is concerned that a parent/adult collecting a child may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs they will seek support from another staff member and:
  - Ask the parent/adult if anyone can be contacted to take them home.
  - In the case of parents/adults where the above is not satisfactory and the safety of children and staff is at risk, the Police will be informed.