

NAPPY CHANGE AND TOILETING POLICY

Our Service aims to meet the needs of children by providing a clean, safe, and hygienic place for nappy changes and toileting. We believe that nappy-changing and toileting rituals provided in a caring and responsive manner are valuable opportunities to promote children's learning, meet individual needs, and to develop strong relationships with children.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.
2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
105	Furniture, materials and equipment
106	Laundry and hygiene facilities
109	Toilet and hygiene facilities
112	Nappy change facilities
115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
120	Educators who are under 18 to be supervised
155	Interactions with children
156	Relationships in groups
168	Education and Care Services must have policies and procedures

170	Policies and procedures are to be followed
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RELATED POLICIES

Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy	Hand Washing Procedure Health and Safety Policy Supervision Policy
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PURPOSE

We aim to ensure best practice guidelines are adhered to for nappy changing and toileting, ensuring that children's bathrooms and nappy change areas are maintained in a hygienic state in order to eliminate or reduce the spread of infectious disease. Our Service will also ensure that nappy change and toileting routines are positive and supportive of children's needs.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Nappy changes and toileting routines are incorporated into our routine, both at designated times and throughout the day to meet children's individual needs. Educators will communicate with parents to develop continuity between our Service and home in regard to their child's nappy change and toileting practices. We will communicate with parents to develop a consistent approach to toilet training. Educators must be responsive to special requirements related to culture, religion, or privacy.

Toileting and nappy changing will be carried out at frequent intervals throughout the day. Children who are in nappies will have each nappy change recorded on OWNA by educators. Educators will monitor the progress of a child's toilet training and provide information to parents of how many times the child sat on the toilet or managed to use the toilet in a day. Nappy changes and toileting routines are incorporated into our routine, both at designated times and in response to children's needs throughout the day.

Having their needs met quickly and in a caring, responsive way builds children's sense of trust and security. It is also important to remember that the way that early childhood educators react to soiled or wet nappies, toileting needs, and toileting accidents give children powerful messages about themselves and their bodies.

Nappy changing and toileting routines are an excellent opportunity for educators to:

- build trusting and caring relationships with babies, toddlers, and children
- support children's agency to develop an understanding and control of their own bodily functions
- interact with babies and toddlers using verbal and non-verbal communication and respond to children's communication
- participate in age-appropriate activities with children, such as singing, saying rhymes and talking
- build children's understanding of what is happening by inviting them to the bathroom and supporting their ability to predict what will happen next in the routine
- help children begin to develop and extend their self-help skills, which includes handwashing and dressing, and encouraging children to identify the feeling of accomplishment and pride that come with this.

During nappy change routines, educators model consent by engaging respectfully with children and talking with children about what is happening through each step of the process. Educators use gentle, respectful language to seek the child's cooperation and will make every effort to be accommodating for children who have a strong preference of who might change their nappy. At times when a child might refuse to have their nappy changed at the centre, educators will work closely with the child's family to develop a clear and consistent strategy.

All educators may carry out nappy changing; however, at times if a student is required to carry out this as part of their practical requirements, they will be under the constant supervision of a qualified educator. Where possible, the infant/child's primary educator will change nappies for consistency and building trust. Educators under the age of 18 will be directly supervised by an educator over the age of 18 at all times. [Reg.120]

Appropriate hygiene practices must be maintained, and procedures followed to minimise any risk of infection at all times. Educators will continuously role-model and promote healthy hygiene practices and hand-washing procedures, encouraging and supporting the children to follow these practices.

Child safety is paramount in our Service. To ensure children's safety, health and wellbeing, parents or guardians are not permitted to use or enter the children's bathroom/toilet area with their child unless there are no other children using the facilities. This is to ensure the safety of other children and protect the rights and dignity of children.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/ NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- ensure obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- ensure educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy and procedure
- provide adequate and appropriate hygienic facilities for nappy changing and toileting
- ensure nappy changing and toileting areas are safe and do not pose a risk to children (Reg. 106)
- ensure nappy change facilities are designed and located in a way that prevents unsupervised access by children
- ensure that the 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 using the facilities
- provide adequate supplies for nappy changing and toileting at all times
- ensure that adult and children's hand washing facilities are located within the nappy change area (Reg. 112)
- ensure handwashing posters are displayed in bathrooms and nappy change areas
- ensure nappy bins are located out of children's reach, preferably in a child-proof cupboard
- ensure nappy change procedures remain compliant and current
- ensure nappy bins are emptied once during the day and at the end of each day, or more regularly as required
- develop systems with educators to ensure that soiled clothing and soiled nappies are disposed of or stored in a location that children cannot access
- implement policies, procedures, and training with educators to ensure nappy change and toileting procedures support children's safety, protection, relationships, and learning
- ensure documentation to record information about nappy changing and toileting is consistent and monitored
- ensure nappy change table/mats are hygienically cleaned and kept in excellent condition at all times to reduce the spread of infection- no holes, cracks, creases
- remove and replace damaged nappy change mats
- ensure children's nappies are changed at scheduled regular intervals at a minimum
- ensure educators check nappies 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.
- ensure nappy change and hand washing procedures are displayed visually and in the nappy change area

- request families to provide additional change of clothes for children who are toilet training
- provide information to families at time of enrolment about:
 - use of disposable nappies
 - procedures if their child develops or presents with nappy rash
 - *Administration of Medication* authorisation for application of products to treat nappy rash including prescription treatments or over the counter creams
 - requests to provide adequate supplies of clothes for children who are toilet training
 - the importance of ongoing and open communication between educators and families about nappy changing and toilet training with their child.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- discuss children's individual needs with families to ensure practices are reflective of their home environment and are culturally sensitive
- provide information to families regarding children's nappy changes and toileting progress
- utilise nappy change times to interact with children, toddlers, and babies on an individual basis. The nappy change time will allow educators to converse, sing, play, and generally interact with the child. This time is a particularly good time for supporting language skills.
- organise the nappy change area to promote positive interactions and promote positive learning experiences. For example, place pictures or mobiles to stimulate children's interactions and to encourage learning and language development.
- ensure hand hygiene routine is implemented at all times including wearing of disposable gloves (recommended at all times- Staying Healthy, 2024)
- ensure physical contact and direct supervision with babies and toddlers throughout the nappy change experience
- ensure no child is left alone on a nappy change mat or bench
- keep nappy change areas fully stocked with all required materials at all times
- ensure that nappy change and toileting supplies are readily accessible to staff to ensure efficiency and the health and safety of each child
- encourage mobile children to walk to the nappy change area
- assist the mobile baby or toddler to walk up the steps onto the nappy change bench to minimise lifting by educators and to promote children's agency. Where a child is not walking, educators will follow manual handling practices to lift and carry the baby to the nappy change mat.
- always follow Service's documentation requirements for nappy changing and toileting, and communicating with families

- only apply nappy cream to a child if authorisation is provided in an *Administration of Medication Form*.
- Share resources with families to maximise consistency between the centre and home.

TOILET TRAINING

Toileting occurs at any time of the day and is specific to individual needs. Educators will communicate with parents/guardians to develop consistency between home and the service in regard to their child's toileting habits. Educators must be aware of and consider any special requirements related to culture, religion, or privacy needs.

Decisions about when to begin toilet training will be made by families or may occur through shared decision-making between families and educators at the Service. This decision is based on mutual respect and open communication, which is crucial for a successful outcome. Families may have strong views and preferences about when and how their child learns to use the toilet, which may come from their cultural background or individual preferences, which must be respected by educators and staff.

The priority of the individual child's wellbeing is paramount, and the decision to begin assisting the child to learn to use the toilet should be based on signs of readiness from the child and discussion with families.

Early signs of readiness may start to appear when children are around two years old, but generally appear closer to the child's third birthday. These signs may include:

- showing interest in the toilet, including having an interest in others using the toilet
- indicating a need to go to the toilet either before, or while they are passing urine or faeces
- staying dryer for longer periods of time
- beginning to dislike wearing a nappy and perhaps trying to pull it off when it's wet or soiled
- indicating a desire to sit on the toilet

It is important to keep the process positive and not place unnecessary attention and pressure on the child to perform. Acknowledging children's successes and participation, no matter how infrequent or small is vital for their self-esteem and confidence. Families and educators can expect accidents, which should be treated respectfully, without fuss, and in a supportive manner.

Educators and families will communicate with each other regarding how the toilet learning is progressing, both in care and at home. This will support children to become more familiar and comfortable with the

toilet training process. Children will be given the opportunity to complete the toileting procedure, such as toileting, flushing the toilet, and washing and drying their hands, but will always be supervised and assisted if required.

During this milestone, children should be empowered and encouraged to be successful. Toilet training varies for individual children. As educators we can take advantage of the child being in a group and the many opportunities that provides for learning from each other. Educators and families need to remember that comparing children is inappropriate as there will always be individual differences and variables.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- request parents to supply a clean change of clothing for children who are toilet training
- assist the child to use the toilet
- assist the child to get dressed (and if required, change into dry clothes)
- encourage children, especially girls, to wipe front to back to reduce introducing bowel bacteria to the urinary tract
- encourage children to flush the toilet
- encourage and assist children to wash and dry their hands thoroughly as per *Handwashing Procedure*

If the child has soiled or wet their clothes:

- place soiled clothes in a plastic bag or alternative and keep these in a designated area for parents to take home.
- empty solid waste into the toilet where possible
- wash their own hands after helping children use the toilet
- wear disposable gloves, use paper towel, or disposable cloths with detergent and disinfectant, when dealing with spills- such as urine, faeces or vomit

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Nappy Change and Toileting Policy* will be reviewed every 2 years in conjunction with children, families, educators and staff.

SOURCES

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. National Quality Standard Information Sheet. (2023) [*Toileting and Nappy Changing Principles and Practices.*](#)

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[*Education and Care Services National Regulations.*](#) (Amended 2023).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2024). *Staying Healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (6th Ed.). NHMRC. Canberra.

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/Staying-Healthy/Staying-healthy-guidelines.pdf>

Raising Children Network (2018) Nappy rash <https://raisingchildren.net.au/newborns/health-daily-care/poos-wees-nappies/nappy-rash>

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00305>

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Governing Council and Staff		
POLICY REVIEWED	13 August 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	13 August 2027
VERSION NUMBER	New policy created to align with childcare desktop policies. Input from Tahlia Mullen (pediatric OT) has supported the writing of this policy.		