



Bangalow Community Children's Centre
Raftons Road
Bangalow NSW 2479
Email: kidcare@bigpond.com
Phone: 02 6687 1552

Hand Washing Policy

Reviewed December 2015

Legislation:	Australian Workplace Safety Standards Act 2005 Australian Workplace Safety Standards Regulations 2005 Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2001
Reference:	National Health and Medical Research Council. (2005), Staying healthy in child care: Preventing infectious disease in child care (4 th ed.)

Introduction

This Service promotes hand washing as a preventative measure in minimising the spread of infection and supporting a healthy environment.

Goals

- To help minimise the spread of infection by encouraging hand washing.
- To ensure staff and visitors are informed of best practice in relation to hand washing procedures

Practices

- Our Service provides the appropriate basins and liquid soap for children/educators to wash their hands and paper towels for hand drying
- Educators and children are encouraged to wash their hands:
 - Upon arrival to reduce the introduction of germs.
 - Before and after handling food, including a baby's bottle.
 - Before eating
 - After doing any dirty tasks such as cleaning, handling garbage
 - After handling pets
 - After playing outside.
 - Before and after changing nappies.
 - After removing gloves.
 - After going to the toilet.
 - After cleaning up blood, faeces or vomit.
 - After wiping a nose
 - Before and after giving first aid.
 - Before and after giving a child medication and if giving medication to more than one child between each child.
 - Before going home to prevent taking germs home.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are placed strategically throughout the Service for educators to access when there is not time to access the basins and soap, however proper hand washing should be followed up as soon as possible.

Hand Washing Policy - page 2 of 2

- Instructions on how to effectively wash hands are displayed throughout the Service. It is encouraged that all children, families, educators and visitors to the Service practice the following procedure for washing hands:
 1. Wash hands using running water and soap.
 2. Rub hands vigorously while counting slowly from 1 to 10.
 3. Wash hands all over ensuring that the back of the hands, wrists, between fingers and under the fingernails are cleaned.
 4. Rinse hands thoroughly while counting slowly from 1 to 10.
 5. Turn off the tap using a clean piece of paper towel.
 6. Dry hands thoroughly with clean paper towel.

This should take about as long as singing “Happy Birthday” twice.

National Regulations

88 Infectious diseases

89 Health, hygiene and safe food practices

NQS

2.1.3 Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented

2.1.4 Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines

EYLF

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Related policies

Infectious diseases and exclusion policy

Food, nutrition and safety

Toileting and nappy changing

Animals in the environment

Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed based on regulatory requirements or when the need arises.

Family and staff feedback will be considered in the review process. Changes in legislation, regulations, NQF and standards will be considered.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to families and staff.

