

Toileting and Nappy Change

Policy Statement

Meerilinga aims to meet the needs of children by providing a clean, safe and hygienic place for nappy change and toileting. We believe that nappy changing and toileting rituals are valuable opportunities to promote children's learning, meet individual needs and to develop strong relationships with children. Having their needs met in a caring and responsive way builds children's sense of trust and security, which relates strongly to the Early Years Learning Framework.

Policy Purpose

We aim to ensure best practice guidelines are adhered to for nappy changing and toileting. Ensuring the area is hygienic, reducing the spread of infectious disease.

Scope

This policy applies to staff and families.

Exclusions

Policy Review

Biennial or from time to time when the organisation may make changes to this policy to improve the effectiveness of its operations and customer service.

Policy Reviewed	28 June 2023	By	Advisor Policy & Compliance
Approved By	CEO		
Previous Review	24 January 2021		

Implementation

Nappy Change and Toileting transpires at designated routine times and when meeting children's individual needs. Educators will collaborate with parents to develop stability with their child's nappy change and toileting practices. Educators must be responsive to additional requirements related to culture, religion or privacy needs.

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 accidents give children powerful messages about themselves and their bodies.

Meeting children's physical needs, nappy changing and toileting are an imperative time for Educators to:

- Conduct one to one interactions with children, and to give them your full attention
- Build trusting and caring relationships with children
- Interact with children 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 doing finger plays.
- Build children's understanding of what is happening by inviting them to the bathroom, supporting their capability 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 gratification that come with this.

All Educators will 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 direct the supervision of a qualified Educator at all times through the process.

Should a parent be in the bathroom helping their child, a staff member must accompany any other children needing to use the bathroom at the same time.

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

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Implement policies, procedures and training with educators to ensure nappy change procedures that support children's safety, protection, relationships and learning.
- Develop systems with educators to ensure that soiled clothing and soiled nappies are disposed of or stored in a location children cannot access.
- Ensure children's nappies are changed at scheduled intervals.
- Ensure nappy change and hand washing procedures are displayed visually.
- Ensure nappy bins are emptied once during the day and at the end of each day. This may need to be done more regularly if there are soiled nappies.
- Provide adequate and appropriate hygienic facilities for nappy changing.
- Ensure nappy change facilities are designed and located in a way that prevents unsupervised access by children which is compliant with National Regulations and Health and Safety Standards.
- Ensure that adult and children's hand washing facilities are located within the nappy change area.
- Consult the Building Code of Australia for requirements concerning nappy change benches (Centre-based services).
- 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.
- Ensure nappy change bins have a 'hands-free' lid, are located out of children's reach – in a in a child-proof cupboard where possible.
- Ensure Nappy change procedure remains compliant and up to date.

Educators will:

- Discuss children's individual needs professionally with families to ensure practices are reflective of their home environment and are culturally sensitive.
- Provide information to families regarding children's nappy change outlines.
- Ensure physical contact and direct supervision with children throughout the nappy change experience.
- Ensure no child is left alone on a nappy change mat or bench.
- Utilise nappy change times to interact with children on an individual basis. The nappy change time will allow educators to converse, sing, play and generally interact with the child. This time allows educators and children to learn more about each other and understand each child's personality and personal strengths.
- Organise the nappy change area to promote positive interactions and promote positive learning experiences, e.g. place pictures or mobiles to stimulate children's interactions and to encourage learning.
- Keep nappy change areas fully stocked with all required materials at all times.
- 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 child to walk up the steps onto the nappy change bench to decrease monotonous movements 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 child to the nappy change mat.
- Follow service's documentation requirements for nappy changing and toileting.