Hand Washing Policy

The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre aims to promote a healthy environment in which children will grow and learn about the world around them. The application of preventative measures such as hand washing will be an effective way of preventing the spread of infection. We provide the appropriate height basins for children to wash their hands in, as well as basins height appropriate for staff. Along with this, we provide paper towel and/or an automatic dryer for people to dry their hands. Everyone on The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre premises is provided with liquid soap to wash their hands. Please inform staff if your child has an allergy and an alternative brand or soap type will be made available.

Staff and children should wash their hands:
- Upon arrival to reduce the introduction of germs.
- Before handling food
- After handling food
- After doing any dirty tasks such as cleaning or toilet assistance.
- After removing gloves.
- After going to the toilet.
- Before and after giving a child medication and if giving medication to more than one child, in between each child.
- Before going home to prevent taking germs home.

Below are instructions on how to effectively wash hands. All children, staff and visitors are to follow this procedure and it should be displayed above every sink.
1. Wash hands using running water and soap.
2. Rub hands vigorously.
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.
5. Turn off the tap using a clean piece of paper towel or tissue (encourage children not to touch the taps after washing their hands).
6. Pat hands dry with clean towel/paper towel of an automatic dryer.

This should take about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice or to count to 10 SLOWLY.

If water and liquid soap is not accessible (such as during outside play), hand sanitiser may be used, however this must not replace hand washing, and in such an instance, hands must be washed as the earliest possible time.

Legislative Requirements

Federal
Australian Workplace Safety Standards Act 2005
Australian Workplace Safety Standards Regulations 2005

Victoria
National Childcare Accreditation Council
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Source:
Communicable diseases (2005).
The blue book – Guidelines for the control of infectious diseases. Department of Human services Victoria

Review will be conducted by:
- The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre Staff
- Families

Policy created date 1st March 2012