

BUNDOORA PRE-SCHOOL DEALING WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for Bundoora Pre-school to ensure that:

- clear procedures exist to support the health, wellbeing and inclusion of all children enrolled at the service
- service practices support the enrolment of children and families with specific health care requirements.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Bundoora Pre-school is committed to recognising the importance of providing a safe environment for children with specific medical and health care requirements through implementing and maintaining effective hygiene practices. This will be achieved through:

- fulfilling the service's duty of care requirement under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*, the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* to ensure that those involved in the programs and activities of Bundoora Pre-school are protected from harm
- informing teachers, educators, staff, volunteers, children and families of the importance of adhering to the *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy* to maintain a safe environment for all users, and communicating the shared responsibility between all involved in the operation of the service
- ensuring that teachers and educators have the skills and expertise necessary to support the inclusion of children with additional health needs.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, teachers, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Bundoora Pre-school including during offsite excursions and activities.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Asthma Policy*
- *Diabetes Policy*
- *Epilepsy Policy*

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

An approved service must have a policy for managing medical conditions that includes the practices to be followed:

- in the management of medical conditions
- when parents/guardians are required to provide a medical management plan if an enrolled child has a specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition
- when developing a risk minimisation plan in consultation with the child's parents/guardians
- when developing a communication plan for staff members and parents/guardians.

Staff members and volunteers must be informed about the practices to be followed. If a child enrolled at the service has a specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition, parents/guardians must be provided with a copy of this and other relevant policies.

Medication and medical procedures can only be administered to a child:

- with written authorisation from the parent/guardian or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication (Regulation 92(3)(b))
- with two adults in attendance, one of whom must be a teacher or educator. One adult will be responsible for the administration and the other adult will witness the procedure

- if the medication is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration. Refer to the *Administration of Medication Policy* for more information.

Staff may need additional information from a medical practitioner where the child requires:

- multiple medications simultaneously
- a specific medical procedure to be followed.

If a child with a chronic illness or medical condition that requires invasive clinical procedures or support is accepted by the service, it is vital that prior arrangements are negotiated with the parent/guardian, authorised nominees or appropriate health care workers to prepare for the event that the child will require a procedure while in attendance at the service. Parents/guardians and the service should liaise with either the child's medical practitioner or other appropriate service providers to establish such an arrangement. Arrangements must be formalised following enrolment and prior to the child commencing at the service.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: Section 173
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 90, 91, 96
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*
- *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic)
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.1: Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
 - Element 2.1.1: Wellbeing and comfort
 - Element 2.2.1: Supervision
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership
 - Standard 7.1: Governance supports the operation of a quality services
 - Element 7.1.3: Roles and responsibilities
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic)
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>
- Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/>

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

AV How to Call Card: A card that the service has completed containing all the information that Ambulance Victoria will request when phoned. A sample card can be downloaded from: <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Education/Calling-Triple-0.html>

Communication plan: A plan that forms part of the policy and outlines how the service will communicate with parents/guardians and staff in relation to the policy. The communication plan also describes how parents/guardians and staff will be informed about risk minimisation plans and emergency procedures to be followed when a child diagnosed as at risk of any medical condition such as anaphylaxis is enrolled at the service.

Hygiene: The principle of maintaining health and the practices put in place to achieve this.

Medical condition: In accordance with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, the term medical condition includes asthma, diabetes or a diagnosis that a child is at risk of anaphylaxis, and the management of such conditions.

Medical management plan: A document that has been prepared and signed by a doctor that describes symptoms, causes, clear instructions on action and treatment for the child's specific medical condition, and includes the child's name and a photograph of the child. An example of this is the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan.

Risk minimisation: The implementation of a range of strategies to reduce the risk of an adverse affect from the mismanagement of a specific medical condition at the service.

Risk minimisation plan: A service-specific plan that details each child's medical condition, and identifies the risks of the medical condition and practical strategies to minimise those risks, and who is responsible for implementing the strategies. The risk minimisation plan should be developed by families of children with specific medical conditions that require medical management plans, in consultation with staff at the service upon enrolment or diagnosis of the condition.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (5th edition, 2013) National Health and Medical Research Council: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ch55>
- *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, p 62: www.acecqa.gov.au

Service policies

- *Administration of First Aid Policy*
- *Administration of Medication Policy*
- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Asthma Policy*
- *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*
- *Diabetes Policy*
- *Epilepsy Policy*
- *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*
- *Supervision of Children Policy*

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- ensuring that all staff and volunteers are provided with access to a copy of this policy and have a clear understanding of the procedures and practices outlined within
- developing and implementing a medical condition communication plan and encouraging ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff regarding the current status of the child's specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition, this policy and its implementation
- ensuring teachers/educators/staff receive regular training in managing the specific health care needs of children at the service including asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy and other medical conditions. This includes training in the management of specific procedures that are required to be carried out for the child's wellbeing
- ensuring at least one teacher or educator who has current accredited training in emergency management requirements for specific medical conditions is in attendance and immediately available at all times that children are being educated and cared for by the service. At Bundoora Pre-school, all teachers and educators have First Aid, Anaphylaxis and Asthma Management Training.
- establishing robust induction procedures that include the provision of information regarding the implementation of the practices outlined in this policy
- ensuring families and teachers and educators understand and acknowledge each other's responsibilities under these guidelines

- ensuring families provide information on their child's health, medications, allergies, their medical practitioner's name, address and phone number, emergency contact names and phone numbers, and a medical management plan signed by their medical practitioner, following enrolment and prior to the child commencing at the service
- ensuring that a risk minimisation plan is developed for each child with specific medical conditions on enrolment or upon diagnosis, and that the plan is reviewed at least annually
- ensuring that parents/guardians who are enrolling a child with specific health care needs are provided with access to a copy of this and other relevant service policies
- following appropriate reporting procedures set out in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy* in the event that a child is ill, or is involved in a medical emergency or an incident at the service that results in injury or trauma.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring that all regularly employed teachers, educators and additional assistant educators are aware of any children with medical conditions in each group and that they sign to acknowledge their understanding on the *Medical Condition Communication Plan* of each child enrolled at the service
- implementing this policy at the service and ensuring that all teachers and educators follow the policy and procedures set out within
- informing the Approved Provider of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy
- ensuring that the *AV How to Call Card* (refer to *Definitions*) is displayed near all telephones
- identifying specific training needs of teachers and educators who work with children diagnosed with a medical condition, and ensuring, in consultation with the Approved Provider, that staff access appropriate training
- ensuring children do not swap or share food, food utensils or food containers
- ensuring food preparation, food service and relief staff are informed of children and staff who have specific medical conditions or food allergies, the type of condition or allergies they have, and the service's procedures for dealing with emergencies involving allergies and anaphylaxis
- ensuring a copy of the child's medical management plan is visible and known to staff in the service. Prior to displaying the medical management plan, the Nominated Supervisor must explain to parents/guardians the need to display the plan for the purpose of the child's safety and obtain their consent (refer to *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*)
- ensuring teachers, educators and other staff follow each child's risk minimisation plan and medical management plan
- ensuring opportunities for a child to participate in any activity, exercise or excursion that is appropriate and in accordance with their risk minimisation plan
- providing information to the community about resources and support for managing specific medical conditions while respecting the privacy of families enrolled at the service
- administering medications as required, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Administration of Medication Policy*
- maintaining ongoing communication between teachers and educators and parents/guardians in accordance with the strategies identified in the communication plan, to ensure current information is shared about specific medical conditions within the service.

Persons in day-to-day charge, teachers and other educators are responsible for:

- ensuring that any relief teachers or educators or tertiary students are aware of any children with medical conditions and that they sign to acknowledge their understanding on the *Medical Condition Communication Plan* of any child in the group
- ensuring that children do not swap or share food, food utensils or food containers
- communicating any relevant information provided by parents/guardians regarding their child's medical condition to the Nominated Supervisor to ensure all information held by the service is current
- ensuring a copy of the child's medical management plan is visible and known to staff in the service. Prior to displaying the medical management plan, the Certified Supervisor must explain to parents/guardians the need to display the plan for the purpose of the child's safety and obtain their consent (refer to *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*)

- undertaking relevant training to assist with the management of specific medical conditions of children at the service
- being aware of individual requirements of children with specific medical conditions and following their risk minimisation plan and medical management plan
- monitoring signs and symptoms of specific medical conditions and communicating any concerns to the Nominated Supervisor
- adequately supervising all children, including those with specific medical conditions
- informing the Nominated Supervisor of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- informing the service of their child's medical conditions, if any, and informing the service of any specific requirements that their child may have in relation to their medical condition
- developing a risk minimisation plan with the Nominated Supervisor, teacher and/or other relevant staff members at the service
- providing a medical management plan signed by a medical practitioner, either on enrolment or immediately upon diagnosis of an ongoing medical condition. This medical management plan must include a current photo of the child and must clearly outline procedures to be followed by educators/staff in the event of an incident relating to the child's specific health care needs
- meeting the cost of training staff to perform specific medical procedures as relevant to their child, as required
- notifying the Nominated Supervisor of any changes to the status of their child's medical condition and providing a new medical management plan in accordance with these changes
- informing the Nominated Supervisor of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy by the service.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from teachers, educators, staff, parents/guardians, children, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- ensure that all information on display and supplied to parents/guardians regarding the management of medical conditions is current
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Medical Condition Communication Plan

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Bundoora Pre-school on 18 October 2018

REVIEW DATE: OCTOBER 2019

MEDICAL CONDITION COMMUNICATION PLAN

Child's Name _____

Child's DOB ____/____/____

Group _____ Year _____

Date Communication Plan completed ____/____/____

Medical Condition _____

Copy of relevant policies provided to family? *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy / Allergies Policy / Anaphylaxis Policy / Asthma Policy / Epilepsy Policy* Other _____

Meeting held with the child's parents/carers to discuss the medical condition; the management, action and risk minimisation plans and the relevant policy/ies. Yes / No

(A meeting is held with each family of a child with a medical condition wherein the relevant policy/ies are explained. Parents/carers are informed that they can advise of any information pertinent to their child's medical condition verbally or in writing. Parents/carers are also advised that they are responsible for providing updated management/action plans if changes to the child's condition occur, as per the policies.)

I _____ have received the relevant policy/ies as indicated above. Parent/Carer Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Medical Management/Action Plan received and all staff briefed? Yes / No
 Risk Minimisation Plan Developed and all staff briefed? Yes / No
(Parents/carers must advise of changes to the medical condition or its risk management.) On file

(Plan to be prepared and signed by doctor.)

Medical Management/Action Plan displayed? Yes / No
 Relevant volunteers advised? Yes / No

(Parents/carers must give permission for Plan to be displayed)

Parent/Carer Signature: _____

(All families are advised of all of the service's policies on enrolment. Kinder Duty Volunteers are advised, verbally and via display in the kitchen, of any child with a medical condition – ensuring that privacy is respected.)

COMMUNICATION OF MEDICAL CONDITION AND RISK MANAGEMENT WITH BUNDOORA PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

Staff Member Name	Anne Harvey	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____	Staff Member Name	Cathrine Krousoratis	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Staff Member Name	Marijke Mondin	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____	Staff Member Name	Grażynka Chochowska	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Staff Member Name	Dani Andros	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____	Staff Member Name	Melinda Bains	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Staff Member Name	Silvana Connell	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____	Staff Member Name	Lyn Clarke	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____

COMMUNICATION OF MEDICAL CONDITION AND RISK MANAGEMENT WITH RELIEF STAFF/TERTIARY PRE-SERVICE STUDENTS

Relief Staff Member Name	_____	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Relief Staff Member Name	_____	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Relief Staff Member Name	_____	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Relief Staff Member Name	_____	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____
Relief Staff Member Name	_____	Sign	_____	Date	____/____/____

COMMUNICATION, PERTAINING TO MEDICAL CONDITION AND RISK MANAGEMENT, WITH PARENTS/CARERS

Staff Member Name _____ **Sign** _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Parent/Carer Name (with whom Staff Member communicated) _____

Notes

Staff Member Name _____ **Sign** _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Parent/Carer Name (with whom Staff Member communicated) _____

Notes

COMMUNICATION, PERTAINING TO MEDICAL CONDITION AND RISK MANAGEMENT, WITH PARENTS/CARERS - continued

Staff Member Name _____ **Sign** _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Parent/Carer Name (with whom Staff Member communicated)

Notes

Staff Member Name

Sign

Date

____/____/____

Parent/Carer Name (with whom Staff Member communicated)

Notes
