Policy
Dealing With Infectious Diseases

NQS

QA2	2.1	Each Child's health is promoted.
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
	2.2	Each child is protected.

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Reg	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
	87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
	88	Infectious diseases
	90	Medical conditions policy
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record

EYLF

LO3	Children are happy, healthy, safe and connected to others.
	Educators promote continuity of children's personal health and hygiene by sharing ownership of routines and schedules with children, families and the community
	Educators discuss health and safety issues with children and involve them in developing guidelines to keep the environment safe for all

Who is affected by this policy?

- Children
- Families
- Educators
- Governing Council

Aims

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised.

Purpose

The preschool will plan for and respond effectively to minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases. Exposure to infectious diseases may be from infected persons, infected animals, insects, contaminated food, waste or other contaminated objects. Ensuring the health and safety of children, and staff, and supporting children's ongoing wellbeing, is a core focus of the preschool. Educators need to be aware of the likelihood of young children being exposed to an infectious disease whilst in care. Maintaining hygiene practices within the service and teaching young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases.
Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

Goals

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised by:

- our service following all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases
- promotion of practices that reduce the transmission of infection
- the exclusion of sick children and staff
- service support for child immunisation
- implementation of effective hand washing procedures

Procedure

- Children are not able to enrol in or attend Loxton Preschool Centre unless all immunisation requirements are met.
- The current immunisation status of children attending the preschool will be recorded and managed.
- The prevention of the spread of an infectious disease will be maintained by following and implementing exclusion requirements according to the SA Health exclusion guidelines.
- Children are not to attend preschool if they are unwell.
- Parents are to notify the preschool if their child is to be absent.
- Parents are to keep their child at home until well or a doctor has given the all clear to attend preschool.
- Children are required not to attend preschool for at least 24 hours after vomiting or diarrhea episodes to prevent the spread of infection.
- When a child shows symptoms of illness whilst at preschool, staff will care for them and contact the parent or emergency contact number.
- Children are required to wash their hands after handling animals or animal products, eg eggs from hen house.

- If there is an infectious disease at Loxton Preschool Centre, the staff will ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the service.
- Infectious disease notification signs are located in the Infectious Diseases folder in the overhead office cupboards and will be displayed to notify the preschool community.
- Confirmed cases of infectious diseases are reported on IRMS

Loxton Preschool Centre will:

- Ensure that all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority, such as: Staying Healthy in Child Care –Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (5th edition), You've Got What –SA Health, SA Government, National Health and Medical research Council, SA Health website.
- Follow the Department for Education First Aid and Infection Control Standard available on the EDi website (edi.sa.edu.au).
- Collect, maintain, and store appropriately the required enrolment documents and enrolment information of children in the service.
- Provide families with relevant infectious diseases, health and hygiene Information.
- Guide children's understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily Program.
- Ensure staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves.
- Maintain relevant records regarding the current status of the immunisation of staff and children at the service, as well as any relevant medical conditions of children at the service.
- Develop an enrolment procedure that captures all required information regarding the children's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- Provide relevant sourced materials to families about:
  - advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and
  - information regarding any specific infectious illnesses that are suspected/present in the service
  - information on illnesses (as soon as practicable after the occurrence of an infectious disease).
- Provide information to families as soon as practicable of the occurrence of an infectious disease that describe the:
  - nature of illness;
  - incubation period; and
  - infectious and exclusion periods.
- Ensure that an "Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness" record is completed as soon as practicable or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring
- Maintain confidentiality with regards to children's individual medical circumstances.

- Provide regular reminders to families to keep information in children's enrolment records up to date (immunisation), ensuring that this occurs as required.
- Advise staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children as per the Department for Education Vaccine Preventable Diseases - employees. Refer to https://edi.sa.edu.au/library/document-library/controlled-standards/first-aid-and-infection-control-standard
- Provide opportunities for educators to source relevant up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases, and maintaining health and hygiene from trusted sources.
- Ensure opportunities for educators and families to be involved in the review of the policies and procedures regarding children's health and safety.
- Inform and implement the advice of the health department, or local health unit regarding Infectious Diseases as required.

Educators will:

- Ensure that any children that are suspected of having an infectious Illness are responded to and their health and emotional needs supported.
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures, when tending to ill children.
- Ensure that families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practicable to ensure the child's comfort.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an Infectious Illness.
- Maintain their own immunisation status.
- Provide varied opportunities for children to engage in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities, and intentional practice.
- Implement the services health and hygiene procedures including:
  - hand washing
  - routine and daily cleaning of the service;
  - nappy changing procedures (when necessary);
  - wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids)
  - proper handling and preparation of food.
- Provide opportunities for staff, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to ensure that practices in place at the service are correct.
- Maintain currency with regard to Health and Safety by attending appropriate professional development opportunities.

Families will :

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status on the enrolment form.
- Advise the service when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to the service to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.

Sources

- Early Years Learning Framework
- National Quality Standard
- Department for Education First Aid and Infection Control Standard
- Department for Education Protecting Children Against Vaccine Preventable Diseases Procedure
- SA Health website

Review

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

Review will be conducted by:

- Governing Council
- Educators/Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Document History	Version	Approved Date	Description of Change	Next Review Date
	1.0	01/12/2016	Policy Developed	01/12/2018
Reviewed	2.0	15/08/2019	Updated in line with NQS changes	15/08/2021
Reviewed	3.0	29/06/2021	Updated in line with Department For Education policy changes Updated sections; Procedure Sources	29/06/2023

Approved by Governing Council _____29/06/2021_____ Director's Signature _____