



HIV AIDS Policy

NQS

QA2	2.1	Each child's health is promoted.
	2.1.1	Each child's health needs are supported.
	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.

National Regulations

Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	88	Infectious diseases
	90	Medical conditions policy

Aim

The service aims to effectively care for any child that may be infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection, AIDS Virus and also minimise the risk of exposure to HIV through effective hygiene practices.

Related Policies

- Enrolment Policy
- Food Nutrition and Beverage Policy
- Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Infectious Diseases Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Who is affected by this policy?

Child
Educators
Families
Community
Visitors
Management

Implementation

It is the Director's responsibility to educate and inform educators and parents about HIV/AIDS. One of the main problems surrounding HIV/AIDS is a lack of understanding which leads to an unfounded fear of the virus.

The following provides basic information on HIV/AIDS -

- AIDS is a medical condition which can damage a bodies' immune system.
- It is caused by a virus which is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluid and is primarily passed on through sexual contact.
- The AIDS virus can be transmitted through blood products. However, the risk of contracting AIDS from a blood transfusion is minimal and said to be about one in 1,000,000.
- There is no evidence of the spread of the virus to children through other means at this time.

When placing a child in a centre who is HIV antibody positive, a primary goal is the avoidance of any practice which violates the dignity of the child and the provision of a satisfactory standard of care to the child.

The confidentiality of medical information must be adhered to regarding an infected child. Any information disclosed to the Nominated Supervisor regarding a child from family members must not be passed on to any other staff member unless the child's caregivers provide written authorisation.

The number of persons aware of the child's condition should be kept to a minimum needed to ensure proper care of the child and to detect situations where there is the potential for the transmission of the disease.

Children with the HIV virus will be accepted into the service. The fact that a child's HIV status is positive should not be in itself a reason to exclude the child from care.

Educators will carry out routine hygiene precautions to Australian standards at all times to prevent the spread of any infections following the service's relevant policies and procedures.

Educators will exercise care in regards to the exposure of bodily fluids and blood and the service's hygiene practices will be used to prevent the spread of infection. Similarly, if the need arises to perform CPR on a child infected with HIV a disposable mouth to mouth mask will be used.

Children who are infected with HIV will be assessed by their Doctor before they are excluded from the service. Children who have abrasions or open wounds will cover them while at the service. If

these abrasions cannot be covered for any reason unfortunately the child will have to be excluded from the service until the wound has healed or can be covered.

Educators who have been infected by HIV are not obliged to inform their employer but are expected to act in a safe and responsible manner at all times to minimise the risk of infection.

No child, educator, parent or other visitor to the service will be denied First Aid at any time, but proper hygiene precautions will be taken such as wearing gloves when administering first aid.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Early Years Learning Framework

National Quality Standard

Public Health Act QLD 2005

Anti Discrimination Act 1997

NHMRC. Staying Healthy, Preventing infectious diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services, 5th edition 2012

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually.

Review will be conducted by:

- Management
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties.

Reviewed: October 2014

Date for next review: October 2015