



Melrose Rural Care

Infection Control Policy

From our Philosophy:

"We aim to provide high quality care and education through a partnership between parents, children, community, staff and the Department of Education and Children's Services."

With the belief that: **"Children have security in a safe loving environment."**

The MELC endeavours to reduce the spread of infection through air, fluid, droplets or surfaces by the following means:

- ❖ Staff model good hygiene procedures with the children.
- ❖ Gloves must be worn by staff during children contact or eating/playing surfaces should staff have an open sore located on hands.
- ❖ If children cough or sneeze they are encouraged to use a disposable tissue and/or their hands and are then encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.
- ❖ As per the "sickness" policy, sick children can be excluded from care. If a child looks unwell, staff will assess them and find a quiet place for them. The parent(s)/caregiver are contacted to pick up their child. The child will be closely observed and reassured by staff until their parent/caregiver arrives.
- ❖ Hand washing is the first line of infection prevention for all children, staff and other users of the centre.

Hand washing is necessary:

- ❖ Before and after administering first aid (gloves*)
- ❖ Before handling food;
- ❖ After visiting the toilet;
- ❖ After handling raw food;
- ❖ After using a handkerchief or tissue;
- ❖ After touching eyes, ears, nose, hair or mouth;
- ❖ After every break;
- ❖ After changing nappies or soiled clothes (gloves*);
- ❖ After handling body fluids, eg vomit, blood, faeces, mucous (gloves*);

- ❖ After handling animals;
- ❖ After any other unhygienic practice and
- ❖ After removing gloves.
- ❖ Our centre has disposable hand towel dispensers for hand drying.

(Gloves) - Gloves are to be worn for these procedures and for cleaning any area exposed to pathogens.*

- ❖ Surfaces are sprayed and wiped with cleaning product using disposable cotton cloths.

Wiping is necessary:

- Before and after changing nappies;
 - Before and after eating;
 - After craft activities;
 - After general spills; and
 - After children's toileting accidents
- ❖ Our centre keeps immunisation records as part of our commitment to protect the health and safety of children and adults.

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Director

Rural Care

Referenced: DECS - Staying healthy in childcare guidelines and Food Safety - Department of Health.

Adopted : / /2008

Review date: