



Hand Washing Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

Staff at Mark Oliphant College Children's Centre aim to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times in relation to hand hygiene. To minimise the spread of infection educators follow the hand washing procedure outlined in 'Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition'.

Supporting Evidence

See "[How to Wash Hands](#)" poster (Staying Healthy in Child Care, 5th edition, 2013).

Implementation

The process of thoroughly washing, rinsing, and drying your hands or a child's hands should take around 30 seconds.

1. Wet hands with running water (preferably warm water, for comfort).
2. Apply soap to hands.
3. Lather soap and rub hands thoroughly, including the wrists, the palms, between the fingers, around the thumbs and under the nails. Rub hands together for at least 15 seconds (for about as long as it takes to sing 'Happy Birthday' once).
4. Rinse thoroughly under running water.
5. Dry thoroughly with paper towel.

Do I really need to wear gloves?

Is there is a chance that you may come in contact with faeces, urine, saliva, vomit or blood? **WEAR GLOVES**

If you are not likely to come in contact with faeces, urine, saliva, vomit or blood **NO NEED FOR GLOVES**

When to Wash Hands (Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition):

Table 3.1 When to perform hand hygiene

	Before	After
Educators and other staff	Starting work, so germs are not introduced into the service Eating or handling food Giving medication Putting on gloves Applying sunscreen or other lotions to one or more children Going home, so germs are not taken home with you	Taking off gloves Changing a nappy Cleaning the nappy change area Using the toilet Helping children use the toilet Coming in from outside play Wiping a child's nose or your own nose Eating or handling food Handling garbage Cleaning up faeces, vomit or blood Applying sunscreen or other lotions to one or more children Touching animals
Children	Starting the day at the service; parents can help with this Eating or handling food Going home, so germs are not taken home with them	Eating or handling food Touching nose secretions Using the toilet Having their nappy changed—their hands will become contaminated while they are on the change mat Coming in from outside play Touching animals





Working with families, health services & industry

Our Centre:

- Will display relevant information including handwashing procedures in handwashing areas

Related Legislation

- [Education and Care Services National Regulation](#)
 - Regulation 77 – Health, hygiene and safe food practices
- [Education and Early Childhood Services \(Registration and Standards\) Act 2011, Schedule 1 Education and Care Services National Law \(South Australia\)](#)

Sources

- [National Quality Standards](#)
 - Element 2.1.2
- [‘Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition’ \(National Research and Medical Council 2013\)](#)

Revision Register

Version Number	Details of Changes Made	Date Issued
1	Policy review (no previous revisions documented)	April 2020
2	Nil	April 2022
3	Nil	May 2024

