



## **Children's Health & Safety**

### **Policy**

Cubby House on Campus – Early Learning Centre (Cubby) is committed to ensuring that each child's health and safety needs are met on a daily basis. This includes individual health and comfort requirements, through the implementation of effective hygiene practices to control the spread of infectious diseases, and the prevention and management of injuries and illness and trauma.

Staff at Cubby will promote the importance of healthy eating and physical activity by ensuring children's nutritional and physical health needs are met and that opportunity for learning about healthy lifestyles underpins everyday routines and experiences.

Cubby believes that all children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that provides for their protection through adequate supervision, safe experiences and environments, and emergency preparedness. Cubby is committed to ensuring that staff understand their legal and ethical obligation to act to protect any child who is at risk of abuse or neglect.

Cubby has zero tolerance to child harm which includes child abuse, neglect and exploitation. We have a responsibility to keep children safe. If you see something, if you hear something, you must say something, which is in line with the new laws that came into effect on 1 September 2019 under the *Royal Commission Criminal Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2019*.

### **Background**

Under the National Law, the approved provider and their nominated supervisor share responsibility for ensuring the health, protection, safety and wellbeing of all children. In exercising their responsibilities under the National Law, these persons must take reasonable care to protect children from foreseeable risk of harm, injury and infection.

Quality Area 2 of the National Quality Standard reinforces children's right to experience quality education and care in an environment that provides for their health and safety.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **Children's Health**

Staff at Cubby are made aware of children's the health requirements through ongoing communication with families.

Staff at Cubby will work with families to maintain the routines and activities that are in place at home, at the centre. Staff will identify and cater for each child's individual requirements for routines throughout the day as we recognise that providing for children's individual health, nutrition, sleep, rest and relaxation is fundamental to their wellbeing.

Staff at Cubby will uphold high standards of hygiene to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases and ensure good health. Staff will ensure hygiene practices are embedded to reduce the likelihood of children becoming ill due to cross-infection or as a result of exposure to materials, surfaces, body fluids or other substances that may cause infection or illness. This may at times require the need for exclusion of children from the centre to minimise the risk of cross infection.

At Cubby educators will encourage children to take a growing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing through educators modelling and reinforcing health, nutrition and personal hygiene practices. Routines will provide opportunities for children to learn about health and safety (Early Years Learning Framework, page 32; Framework for School Age Care, page 31).

Related documents: Animals & Pets Policy; Bedding & Rest Policy; Toileting Training; Nappy Changing Policy, Medication & Administration Policy, Hygiene & Infection Control Policy;

### Safe Sleep and Rest Practices

Current research and recommended evidence-based principles and guidelines guide Cubby's sleep, rest and relaxation requirements. A high level of safety is implemented and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect all children from harm and hazard whilst they are sleeping and resting. Educators must take reasonable steps to ensure that the needs for sleep and rest of children are met, having regard to the ages, development stages and individual needs of the children.

Related documents: Bedding & Rest Policy

### Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

At Cubby, we believe that learning about healthy lifestyles, including nutrition and physical fitness, is vital to developing a child's wellbeing and self-confidence. Cubby will promote opportunities for children to experience a range of healthy foods and to learn about food choices from educators and other children (Early Years Learning Framework, page 30).

Cubby recognises that physical wellbeing contributes to children's ability to socialise, concentrate, cooperate and learn. Staff will provide opportunities during every day routines and experiences for physical activity and attention to fine and gross motor skills to provide children with the foundations for their growing independence and satisfaction in being able to do things for themselves (Early Years Learning Framework, page 30).

Physical activity will be embedded throughout the daily curriculum through both spontaneous and intentionally planned experiences that are both child initiated and educator led. Educators will actively role model to children appropriate physical activity behaviors and may refer to the National Physical Activity Recommendations for children 0-5 years for further information.

Related documents: Food and Nutrition Policy; Breast Feeding Policy

## Keeping Children Safe

Cubby will ensure that each child's right to be protected and kept safe is upheld. Cubby's staff will provide adequate supervision of children at all times, to ensure their safety. Staff will be alert to and aware of potential risks and hazards and will seek to minimise these to protect children from harm that may cause potential injury.

Cubby's staff will have plans in place to manage incidents and emergencies to protect adults and children. The Director or person In-charge will assist staff to handle emergency situations calmly and effectively, reducing the risk of further harm or damage.

Cubby will ensure staff understand their legal and ethical obligations and act to protect any child who is at risk of harm. Cubby will provide learning and development opportunities to ensure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Cubby's zero tolerance approach to child harm means that child harm is not accepted. All alleged or suspected cases of child harm must be reported.

Child harm that occurs as the result of staff misconduct will be managed in accordance with the Disciplinary Management requirement.

Related documents: Accident & Emergencies, Fire Drill Procedure – Cubby, First Aid Policy, Critical Incidents/Emergencies, Travel & Excursions, Water Safety, Sun Safety, Child Safe Environment, Breach Policy, Workplace Health & Safety, Dangerous/Hazardous Products and Non Toxic Policy, Occupational Health & Safety, Supporting Children's Individual Needs, Supervision.

### Collection and access arrangements for children

Cubby endeavors to promote the safety and wellbeing of children, families and employees, where reasonable, by complying with court orders, parenting plans and other written agreements for the collection of, and access to, children.

Related Documents: Delivery & Collection of Children Policy

<i>Policy Action</i>	<i>Process Development</i>
Sources/ Further Reading	Education and Care Services National Regulations. No's 77, 78, 81, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 93, 99, 109, 112, 136, 165, 167  ACT Government – Community services, Keeping Children and Young People Safe 2017.  2018 National Quality Standard. Standard 2, Elements 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3  National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020  Royal Commission Criminal Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2019 <a href="https://www.act.gov.au/childabuseroyalcommission/formalresponse/new-law-to-improve-reporting-of-child-abuse">https://www.act.gov.au/childabuseroyalcommission/formalresponse/new-law-to-improve-reporting-of-child-abuse</a> & <a href="https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au">https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au</a>

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