

2.18 BATHING

Purpose Statement

It is important for a child's personal hygiene to be maintained whilst accessing education and care. Illness, toileting accidents or excessive muddiness may result in a child needing to be bathed to make them comfortable.

Scope

This policy applies to educators, contractors, children and families.

Policy Statement

FOR CHILDREN TO BE BATHED, WHEN NECESSARY FOR COMFORT OR PERSONAL HYGEINE REASONS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THEIR RIGHTS TO PRIVACY AND DIGNITY.

Procedures

General

1. Written consent is required from a parent or guardian to bath a child. This consent is obtained at enrolment.
2. Bathing shall only occur during standard hours of a service where necessary for the comfort or personal hygiene of a child.
3. If a child is in care for an extended period of time, or overnight, bathing may occur where it is regarded as part of the child's usual routine and consent has been obtained.
4. Parents/Guardians will be notified in a timely manner if unplanned bathing occurs (i.e. due to soiling).
5. A child's privacy and dignity is to be respected at all times when bathing
6. Cultural or religious practices are to be observed whilst bathing children (where applicable).
7. Ensure that at no time does a child in care bathe with an adult.
8. Hot water taps need to be adequately covered or alternatively be temperature controlled. Ideally, the bathroom hot water should be a maximum of 50°C. A licensed plumber can install an anti-scald valve to regulate the temperature of the water or set the temperature on the water heater to a maximum of 50°C.
9. When filling the bath, run the cold water first, then hot, then cold again before mixing for an even temperature.
10. Do not put a child in the bath while the water is still running.
11. Always test the temperature of the water before bathing the child. It should be no more than 38° C.

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12. Always stay with the child when bathing. When household distractions like the telephone or doorbell ring, the child must not be left unattended.
13. Empty all baths immediately after use
14. Refer to Child Safety policy for more information on an educator's boundaries in relation to 'physical contact'.

Relevant Standards/Legislation

- National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care Services including:
 - Education and Care Services National Law 2011
 - Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004

Related Policies & Links

- *Enrolment procedure*