

POLICY – SICK CHILDREN

1.	National Quality Standards	1
2.	Purpose.....	1
3.	Scope.....	1
4.	Implementation.....	1
5.	Feedback.....	3
6.	Approval and Review Details	3
	Appendix	4

1. National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety		
Area	Concept	Descriptor
2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort	Each child’s wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

[Appendix 1](#) includes the Education and Care Services National Regulations

2. Purpose

Baringa Early Learning Centre (Baringa) aims to maintain the health and wellbeing of all children, staff, and their families, ensuring a healthy environment and minimising cross-contamination and the spread of infectious illnesses by implementing best practice and high standards of personal hygiene within our Service.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of Baringa.

4. Implementation

4.1 Centre Management and Educators will ensure:

- a) Effective hygiene policies and procedures are adhered to at all times to prevent the spread of illnesses.
- b) They promote effective hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- c) Effective environmental cleaning policies and procedures are adhered to all times.
- d) Families are provided with relevant information from a trusted source about preventing the spread of illnesses.

- 4.2 If a child is unwell and may be infectious, we will not accept a child into the centre if they fall into any of the exclusion categories listed in the *Dealing with Infectious Disease Policy* (schedule 1 – Exclusions) and/or if they:
- a) have a temperature above 38.0°C when assessed prior to entry to the service (effective during a pandemic or outbreak of an infectious disease)
 - b) have been given Paracetamol or Ibuprofen within 24 hours prior to arriving at Baringa (for example: Panadol).
- 4.3 Children may become unwell throughout the day, in which case Centre Management and educators will respond to children's individual symptoms of illness and provide immediate comfort and care. In these circumstances, educators will:
- a) Closely monitor and document the child's symptoms on the Incident, Injury, Trauma, and Illness Record.
 - b) Provide children with rest in a supervised area away from other children until parents or the emergency contact person is able to collect them.
 - c) Take the child's temperature. If the child's temperature is 38°C or higher, the child's parents/guardian/emergency contacts will be contacted as soon as possible to have the child collected ASAP.
 - d) Educators will attempt to lower a child's temperature by:
 - removing excessive clothing (shoes, socks, jumper, pants) .
 - encouraging the child to take small sips of water.
 - where practicable, moving the child to a quiet area where they can rest whilst being supervised.
 - administering paracetamol, only when verbal or written permission from the child's parent or guardian has been received (as per the *Administration of Medication Policy*).
 - e) Keep accurate records of the child's events on the Incident, Injury, Trauma, and Illness Record.
 - f) Educators will complete the Incident, Injury, Trauma, or Illness Record, ensuring the form has been completed correctly, discussed with then signed by the parent or authorised guardian/emergency contact upon collection of their child.
 - g) Educators will thoroughly clean and disinfect any toys, resources or equipment that may be contaminated by a sick child.
- 4.4 In the event a parent/guardian does not make every effort to collect their child ASAP, Centre Management will proceed with *Grievance Policy* with the family. Centre Management reserves the right to terminate the child's position.
- 4.5 Parents/families will:
- a) Assist Baringa to prevent the spread of disease, by monitoring their child's health and not allowing them to attend if they have an infectious illness or display symptoms of an illness.
 - b) Ensure they are familiar with the *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy* and the exclusions outlined in schedule 1 of this policy.
 - c) Implement effective hygiene routines at home such as regular handwashing and sneeze and cough routines (use of tissues, covering their mouth with coughing, sneezing into a tissue or elbow).
 - d) Communicate with Baringa if their child has been unwell in the past 24 hours or someone in the family is/has been sick and follow the advice provided regarding attendance to Baringa.
 - e) Make every effort to arrange for pick-up of their child from Baringa as soon as possible, when notified that their child is sick.
 - f) Produce a medical clearance statement upon Centre Management's request. This could be for children who have undergone surgery to ensure the child's safety prior to attending Baringa.

5. Feedback

Families and staff may provide feedback about this document by emailing admin@baringa.org.au.

6. Approval and Review Details

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Centre Management
Administrator	Centre Director
Next Review Date	31 October 2024

History	Details
Original Approval Authority/Revision Date	31 October 2021
Amendment Authority and Date	19 May 2023
Modifications made	Removal of outdated Covid-19 information. Refer to Covid-19 Action Plan.

Appendix

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Education and Care Services National Regulations	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. (2009).

Australian Government- Department of Health <https://www.health.gov.au/>

Australian Government Department of Health Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).

Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2020)

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/>

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2012) (updated June 2013). *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*.

NSW Public Health Unit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/pages/phus.aspx>

NSW Health Symptoms and testing COVID-19 <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing>

Public Health Act 2010

Raising Children Network: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/a-z-health-reference/fever>

The Sydney Children's Hospitals network (2020). <https://www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/search/site?query=fever>

Victoria Department of Education and Training (2020). <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/early-childhood-education-and-care>