

PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for South Kingsville Preschool to ensure that:

- clear procedures exist to support the health, wellbeing and inclusion of all children enrolled at the service
- service practices support the enrolment of children and families with specific health care requirements.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

South Kingsville Preschool is committed to recognising the importance of providing a safe environment for children with specific medical and health care requirements through implementing and maintaining effective hygiene practices. This will be achieved through:

- fulfilling the service's duty of care requirement under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*, the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* to ensure that those involved in the programs and activities of South Kingsville Preschool are protected from harm
- informing educators, staff, volunteers, children and families of the importance of adhering to the *Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy* to maintain a safe environment for all users, and communicating the shared responsibility between all involved in the operation of the service
- ensuring that educators have the skills and expertise necessary to support the inclusion of children with additional health needs.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of South Kingsville Preschool, including during offsite excursions and activities.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- Diabetes Policy
- Epilepsy Policy

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

An approved service must have a policy for managing medical conditions that includes the practices to be followed:

- in the management of medical conditions
- when parents are required to provide a medical management plan if an enrolled child has a specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition
- when developing a risk minimisation plan in consultation with the child's parents/guardians
- when developing a communication plan for staff members and parents/guardians.

Staff members and volunteers must be informed about the practices to be followed. If a child enrolled at the service has a specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition, parents/guardians must be provided with a copy of this and other relevant policies.

Medication and medical procedures can only be administered to a child:

- with written authorisation from the parent/guardian or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication (Regulation 92(3)(b))
- with two adults in attendance, one of whom must be an educator. One adult will be responsible for the administration and the other adult will witness the procedure
- if the medication is in its original container bearing the child's name, dose and frequency of administration.

Refer to the *Administration of Medication Policy* for more information.

Staff may need additional information from a medical practitioner where the child requires:

- multiple medications simultaneously
- a specific medical procedure to be followed.

If a child with a chronic illness or medical condition that requires invasive clinical procedures or support is accepted by the service, it is vital that prior arrangements are negotiated with the parent/guardian, authorised nominees or appropriate health care workers to prepare for the event that the child will require a procedure while in attendance at the service. Parents/guardians and the service should liaise with either the child's medical practitioner or other appropriate service providers to establish such an arrangement. Arrangements must be formalised following enrolment and prior to the child commencing at the service.

Self-administration by a child over preschool age

Services who provide education and care to a child over preschool age (as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*) may allow a child over preschool age to self-administer medication. The Approved Provider must consider their duty of care when determining under what circumstances such permission would be granted:

- Where a child over preschool age can self-administer medication/medical procedures, written permission must be provided by the child's parent/guardian.
- Parents/guardians will provide written details of the medical information and administration protocols from the child's medical/specialist medical practitioner(s).
- The self-administration of medication or medical procedures by children over preschool age will be undertaken only under the supervision of a staff member with current approved first aid qualifications.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: Section 173
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 90, 91, 96
- *Health Records Act 2001* (Vic)
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.1: Each child's health is promoted
 - Element 2.1.1: Each child's health needs are supported
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management
 - Standard 7.1: Effective leadership promotes a positive organisational culture and builds a professional learning community
 - Element 7.1.2: The induction of educators, co-ordinators and staff members is comprehensive
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)

- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic)
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>
- Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/>

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

AV How to Call Card: A card that the service has completed containing all the information that Ambulance Victoria will request when phoned. A sample card can be downloaded from: <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Education/Calling-Triple-0.html>

Communication plan: A plan that forms part of the policy and outlines how the service will communicate with parents/guardians and staff in relation to the policy. The communication plan also describes how parents/guardians and staff will be informed about risk minimisation plans and emergency procedures to be followed when a child diagnosed as at risk of any medical condition such as anaphylaxis is enrolled at the service.

Hygiene: The principle of maintaining health and the practices put in place to achieve this.

Medical condition: In accordance with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, the term medical condition includes asthma, diabetes or a diagnosis that a child is at risk of anaphylaxis, and the management of such conditions.

Medical management plan: A document that has been prepared and signed by a doctor that describes symptoms, causes, clear instructions on action and treatment for the child's specific medical condition, and includes the child's name and a photograph of the child. An example of this is the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Action Plan.

Risk minimisation: The implementation of a range of strategies to reduce the risk of an adverse affect from the mismanagement of a specific medical condition at the service.

Risk minimisation plan: A service-specific plan that details each child's medical condition, and identifies the risks of the medical condition and practical strategies to minimise those risks, and who is responsible for implementing the strategies. The risk minimisation plan should be developed by families of children with specific medical conditions that require medical management plans, in consultation with staff at the service upon enrolment or diagnosis of the condition.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (5th edition, 2013) National Health and Medical Research Council: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ch55>

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, p 62: www.acecqa.gov.au

Service policies

- *Administration of First Aid Policy*
- *Administration of Medication Policy*
- *Anaphylaxis Policy*
- *Asthma Policy*
- *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*

- *Diabetes Policy*
- *Epilepsy Policy*
- *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*
- *Supervision of Children Policy*

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- ensuring that all staff and volunteers are provided with a copy of this policy and have a clear understanding of the procedures and practices outlined within
- developing and implementing a communication plan and encouraging ongoing communication between parents/guardians and staff regarding the current status of the child's specific health care need, allergy or other relevant medical condition, this policy and its implementation
- ensuring educators/staff receive regular training in managing the specific health care needs of children at the service including asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy and other medical conditions. This includes training in the management of specific procedures that are required to be carried out for the child's wellbeing
- ensuring at least one educator/staff member who has current accredited training in emergency management requirements for specific medical conditions is in attendance and immediately available at all times that children are being educated and cared for by the service
- establishing robust induction procedures that include the provision of information regarding the implementation of the practices outlined in this policy
- ensuring families and educators/staff understand and acknowledge each other's responsibilities under these guidelines
- ensuring families provide information on their child's health, medications, allergies, their medical practitioner's name, address and phone number, emergency contact names and phone numbers, and a medical management plan signed by their medical practitioner, following enrolment and prior to the child commencing at the service
- ensuring that a risk minimisation plan is developed for each child with specific medical conditions on enrolment or upon diagnosis, and that the plan is reviewed at least annually
- ensuring that parents/guardians who are enrolling a child with specific health care needs are provided with a copy of this and other relevant service policies
- following appropriate reporting procedures set out in the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy* in the event that a child is ill, or is involved in a medical emergency or an incident at the service that results in injury or trauma.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- implementing this policy at the service and ensuring that all educators/staff follow the policy and procedures set out within
- informing the Approved Provider of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy
- ensuring that the *AV How to Call Card* (refer to *Definitions*) is displayed near all telephones
- identifying specific training needs of educators/staff who work with children diagnosed with a medical condition, and ensuring, in consultation with the Approved Provider, that educators/staff access appropriate training
- ensuring children do not swap or share food, food utensils or food containers
- ensuring food preparation, food service and relief staff are informed of children and staff who have specific medical conditions or food allergies, the type of condition or allergies they have, and the service's procedures for dealing with emergencies involving allergies and anaphylaxis
- ensuring a copy of the child's medical management plan is visible and known to staff in the service. Prior to displaying the medical management plan, the Nominated Supervisor must explain to

parents/guardians the need to display the plan for the purpose of the child's safety and obtain their consent (refer to *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*)

- ensuring educators and other staff follow each child's risk minimisation plan and medical management plan
- ensuring opportunities for a child to participate in any activity, exercise or excursion that is appropriate and in accordance with their risk minimisation plan
- providing information to the community about resources and support for managing specific medical conditions while respecting the privacy of families enrolled at the service
- administering medications as required, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Administration of Medication Policy*
- maintaining ongoing communication between educators/staff and parents/guardians in accordance with the strategies identified in the communication plan, to ensure current information is shared about specific medical conditions within the service.

Certified Supervisors and other educators are responsible for:

- ensuring that children do not swap or share food, food utensils or food containers
- communicating any relevant information provided by parents/guardians regarding their child's medical condition to the Nominated Supervisor to ensure all information held by the service is current
- undertaking relevant training to assist with the management of specific medical conditions of children at the service
- being aware of individual requirements of children with specific medical conditions and following their risk minimisation plan and medical management plan
- monitoring signs and symptoms of specific medical conditions and communicating any concerns to the Nominated Supervisor
- adequately supervising all children, including those with specific medical conditions
- informing the Nominated Supervisor of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- informing the service of their child's medical conditions, if any, and informing the service of any specific requirements that their child may have in relation to their medical condition
- developing a risk minimisation plan with the Nominated Supervisor and/or other relevant staff members at the service
- providing a medical management plan signed by a medical practitioner, either on enrolment or immediately upon diagnosis of an ongoing medical condition. This medical management plan must include a current photo of the child and must clearly outline procedures to be followed by educators/staff in the event of an incident relating to the child's specific health care needs
- notifying the Nominated Supervisor of any changes to the status of their child's medical condition and providing a new medical management plan in accordance with these changes
- informing the Nominated Supervisor of any issues that impact on the implementation of this policy by the service.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- Encourage feedback from educators, staff, parents/guardians, children, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy on a periodic basis.

- ensure that all information on display and supplied to parents/guardians regarding the management of medical conditions is current
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any substantive changes to this policy, which would impact on the supervision or care of children.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Communication Plan

Attachment 2: General Risk Minimisation Plan

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of South Kingsville Preschool on 20th August 2018.

REVIEW DATE: 20 AUGUST 2021

ATTACHMENT 1

Medical Conditions Communication Plan		South Kingsville Pre School	
Date	Medical Condition (please circle) Asthma Anaphylaxis Diabetes Epilepsy		
Names of involved individuals: (Child, Parents, Educator)			
Background:			
Goals:			
Target Audience:			
Key Messages:			
Communication Methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents lodge Enrolment Form 2. Meeting between parents & educators re identified medical condition 3. Complete Communication Plan 4. Complete Risk Minimisation Plan 5. Complete Medical Action Plan 6. Provide parents with copies of relevant policies 	Responsibilities of parents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform Educators of child's medical condition 2. Provide a Medical Management Plan signed by a medical practitioner 3. Attend meeting to discuss management of the medical condition 4. Notify Educators of any change in contact details or any change in child's health status 5. Read the relevant SKPS medical conditions policies 	Responsibilities of educators: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify child's medical condition from Enrolment Form 2. Arrange meeting with parents to discuss child's medical condition 3. Complete the Communication Plan, Risk Minimisation Plan and Medical Action Plan in conjunction with parents 4. Provide parents with copies of relevant policies 5. Display Medical Action Plan in the kinder room 6. In case of emergency, follow the Medical Action Plan and contact parents as soon as possible 7. Inform parents of any changes to the program that may impact on child eg. excursion 	
Signed by			
Parents:			
Educator:			

Evaluation:

ATTACHMENT 2: GENERAL RISK MINIMISATION PLAN

The following information is not a comprehensive list but contains some suggestions to consider when developing/reviewing your service's risk minimisation plan in consultation with parents/guardians.

How well has the service planned for meeting the needs of children with:	
Who is the child?	
What are their medical issue/risk?	
Do staff (including casual and relief staff), volunteers and visiting staff recognise the children and their medical/management needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> List the strategies for ensuring that all staff, including casual and relief staff, recognise each at-risk child, are aware of the child's specific needs and medical management action plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm the location of each child's medical management action plan and ensure it contains a photo of the child.
Do families and staff know how the service manages the needs of this child	<input type="checkbox"/> Record the date on which each family of a child diagnosed and family is provided with copy of Dealing with Medical conditions policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Record the date the centre received a completed Medical Management plan <input type="checkbox"/> Assess if a written request is required to be sent to all families at the service to follow specific procedures to minimise the risk/aid in the management of this child.
<p>Has a communication plan been developed which includes procedures to ensure that:</p> <p>all staff, volunteers, students and parents/guardians are informed about the policy and procedures for the management of this child/medical issue</p> <p>parents/guardians of a child diagnosed as at risk of a medical condition are able to communicate with service staff about any changes to the child's diagnosis or medical management action plan</p> <p>all staff, including casual, relief and visiting staff, volunteers and students are informed about, and are familiar with management</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> All parents/guardians are provided with a copy of the Dealing with Medical Conditions policy prior to commencing at South Kingsville Pre SchoolSKPS. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of this policy is displayed in a prominent location at the service. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff will meet with parents/guardians of a child diagnosed with a medical condition prior to the child's commencement at the service and will develop an individual communication plan for that family. <input type="checkbox"/> An induction process for all staff and volunteers includes information regarding the management of the condition at the service including the location of any aids required for the child's

action plans and the South Kingsville Pre Schoolrisk management plan.	care.
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Do all staff know how the service aims to minimise the risk and maximise management of this child

Think about times when the child could potentially be at risk or disadvantaged and develop appropriate strategies including identifying the person responsible for implementing them (refer to the following section for possible scenarios and strategies).

- meal times
- hygiene procedures and practices
- outside play
- group time
- at tables
- employ teaching strategies to raise the awareness of all children about management of the child and how they can interact/engage positively and safely.

Do relevant people know what action to take if a child has Medical issue/deterioration?

- Signs to look for
- Know who to call

Medications?

Who will telephone the ambulance and the parents/guardians of the child?

Who will ensure the supervision of other children at the service?

Who will let the ambulance officers into the service and take them to the child?

- Ensure all staff have undertaken training and participate in regular practise sessions.
- Ensure a completed Ambulance Victoria AV How to Call Card is located next to all telephone/s.

Potential exposure scenarios and strategies

How effective is the service's risk minimisation plan?

- Review the risk minimisation plan of each child diagnosed with a medical condition with parents/guardians at least annually, but always on enrolment and after any incident or accident.

Scenario	Strategy	Who is responsible?
