

## 1. POLICY CERTIFICATION

Policy title:	<b>Crèche – Hand Washing Policy</b>
Policy number:	<b>FACS016</b>
Category:	<b>Policy</b>
Classification:	<b>FACS</b>
Status:	<b>Approved (26/06/2013 OCM)</b>

## 2. POLICY PURPOSE

The Roper Gulf Regional Crèche has a duty to ensure the health and wellbeing of all children and Childcare Educators enrolled at the crèche. This policy minimises the risk of spreading communicable diseases through cross infection.

## 3. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to Crèches run under Roper Gulf Regional Council.

## 4. POLICY STATEMENT

Roper Gulf Shire Regional recognises that hand washing is the most significant way to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and minimise cross infection.

## 5. DEFINITIONS

Crèche	is a day care centre where child care educator will take care of children in place of their parents
RGRC	Roper Gulf Regional Council

## 6. PRINCIPLES

- The Crèche has suitably sized hand washing facilities located throughout the building. Liquid soap/foam and paper towels or automatic dryer are also provided at each.
- The Crèche provides an antibacterial hand gel for use upon arrival at and departure from the Crèche.
- Childcare Educators model good hand washing procedures at appropriate times to the children. In addition, they intentionally teach and encourage the children to use the correct hand washing procedure. Children who can stand at a sink but not wash their hands independently are assisted to do so.
- The Hand washing Poster – NHMRC is displayed in nappy change areas and food preparation and eating areas throughout the Crèche.
- A laminated poster containing photographs of children using correct hand washing procedure is displayed at child height above each hand washing facility in the

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Crèche.

- All staff, students, volunteers and children should wash their hands:
  - On arrival at the Crèche. (Alternatively, antibacterial hand gel may be used);
  - Before and after eating, or feeding a child;
  - Before and after handling food;
  - Before and after giving medication and providing medical procedures or first aid;
  - Before and after changing a nappy;
  - After using the toilet or helping a child use a toilet;
  - After cleaning up blood, faeces or vomit;
  - After wiping a nose;
  - After touching pets and other animals;
  - After playing outside;
  - Before and after using gloves and when changing gloves;
  - After cleaning, gardening and handling garbage; and,
  - Before going home. (Alternatively, antibacterial hand gel may be used).

**7. EFFECTIVE HAND WASHING PROCEDURES**

- Wet hands with running water;
- Apply liquid soap and spread over hands.
- Rub hands together while counting to ten slowly;
- Wash hands all over, including backs of hands, wrists, between fingers, under fingernails;
- Rinse hands thoroughly under clean, running water while counting to ten slowly;
- Turn tap off using a clean piece of paper towel;
- Pat hands dry using another clean piece of paper towel, or use the air dryer.

**8. ADDITIONAL SAFE PRACTICES FOR BABIES**

Babies need their hands washed as often and as thoroughly as older children. If the baby is unable to stand at a hand basin, wash their hands with either pre-moistened towelette or a wet disposable cloth, and then pat dry with paper towel.

**9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS**

To wash their hands when they arrive at the Crèche and leave, and to help their child to do the same.

**10. REFERENCES**

Acknowledgements (original author/source documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NHMRC. (2005). <i>Staying healthy in child care: Preventing diseases in childcare. 5th edition.</i></b> <a href="http://www.nhmrc.gov.au">http://www.nhmrc.gov.au</a></li> <li>• <b>Queensland Health. (n.d.). <i>Video: Routine hand wash.</i></b></li> </ul>
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