



Rockingham Montessori School Incorporated
ABN: 68 115 270 695

POLICY TITLE: Child Health Policy

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 15 June 2010

SIGNED BY CHAIR:

BOARD REVIEW DATE:

OVERVIEW:

Rockingham Montessori School is committed to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, healthy eating habits, sun protection and physical education. The School is committed to asthma care, food allergy care, protection against head lice and other communicable diseases. The School takes responsibility for administering medicines under certain circumstances. The School is committed to dental access and school nurse assessments.

PRINCIPLES:

1. The School is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle by promoting and encouraging:
 - Healthy eating habits
 - Physical activity and education
 - Preventative and protective health education
 - Compliance with all relevant regulatory and statutory health care requirements and guidelines
2. The School recognises its fundamental obligation to children, staff and parents to continue both the longterm and day to day management of health issues.
3. Teachers are often in a position to detect the early onset of a child's illness, and to decide when unwell children need to be sent home.
4. The School has the following health objectives:
 - That all children attending the School are physically healthy.
 - That all children understand and are capable of adequately managing personal health issues and taking responsibility for them.
 - To prevent and minimise children's exposure to allergies and disease through the management of day to day health issues and creating a healthy school environment.

- To comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.

APPLICABLE ISSUES/BASIS FOR POLICY:

1. In February 2004, the Department of Education, Science and Training released a paper entitled 'Taking schools to the next level, National Education Framework for Schools'. This paper states that in Australia, about one million young people are now considered to be overweight or obese, and this figure is continuing to rise. Young people who are active and healthy are more likely to get the most out of their schooling and realise their full potential. Good health for all Australians, with an emphasis on nutrition and physical activity, is an Australian Government priority.
2. Children who regularly enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods are more likely to concentrate better at school and be better able to make the most of learning opportunities. www.dest.gov.au/nef/schools.
3. Active Australia Schools Network is committed to developing, supporting and promoting sport. www.activeaustralia.org/school/.
4. The Commonwealth Dept of Health and Ageing, Population Health Division, enforces The Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The School requires all children to be immunised in compliance with this Schedule. www.immunise.health.gov.au/schedule_n2.htm. The School must be made aware of children who have not been immunised.
5. The Health Department WA offers strong and immediate support/recommendations for managing infectious diseases, swine flu, allergy, asthma, head lice etc. www.health.wa.gov.au.
6. All teaching staff have current First Aid Certificates.
7. School Nurse and School Dentist are accommodated as required.

LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

The School Board is responsible for:

- developing and adopting the Child Health Policy and other health related policies
- ultimately ensuring that all measures have been adopted by the Teacher in Charge and Staff, and that the Policy is adhered to.

The Teacher in Charge is responsible for:

- maintaining strict confidentiality
- ensuring that parents/guardians are advised immediately and child is temporarily removed from the School due to illness as appropriate

- ensuring the child's detailed, accurate and confidential medical records (Child Health Care Plan) are kept and preserved for legal compliance
- ensuring the child's doctor is contacted if the parents/guardian cannot be contacted
- ensuring the Teachers maintain current First Aid Certificates
- ensuring that the School's First Aid facilities are maintained
- ensuring that staff and children fully understand hygiene and first aid procedures in dealing with blood borne diseases such as Hepatitis B and HIV
- training of staff in management of allergies, infectious disease, asthma, head lice, and any other health issues affecting the School community
- ensuring that staff are trained in administering medications
- notifying the School community immediately of any instances of infectious disease, head lice, etc.
- promoting a positive attitude towards a healthy diet and lifestyle
- enforcing a physical fitness program throughout the School
- enforcing sun protection as per the Sun Protection Policy
- ensuring that immunisation records are completed and maintained, and that children who have not been immunised are noted
- maintaining thorough written records of any injury or illness that occurs whilst a child is in the school or under its care
- assessing the incident and the procedures required to be taken
- ensuring hygiene and cleanliness prevail across all of the School

The Staff are responsible for:

- ensuring strict confidentiality is maintained at all times
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly
- ensuring the child's detailed, accurate and confidential medical records (Child Health Care Plan) are kept and preserved for legal compliance
- maintaining current First Aid Certificates
- fully understanding hygiene and first aid procedures in dealing with blood borne diseases such as Hepatitis B and HIV
- protecting children from contact with blood borne diseases
- managing allergies, infectious diseases, asthma, head lice, poor hygiene and any other health issues affecting the classroom
- careful dosage administration of medications and only if written request is made by parents in every case
- notifying the Teacher in Charge immediately of any instances of infectious disease, head lice etc.
- promoting a positive attitude towards a healthy diet and lifestyle
- promoting physical fitness
- enforcing sun protection as per the School's Sun Protection Policy
- maintaining thorough written records of any injury or illness that occurs whilst a child is in the School or under its care

- careful assessment of the incident and procedures required to be taken

The Parents/Guardians are responsible for:

- ensuring the child arrives at school in a clean and healthy state
- providing sun protection for the child as per the School's Sun Protection Policy
- providing healthy food for the child as per the School's Healthy Eating Policy
- being familiar with the School's Infectious and Communicable Disease Policy
- informing the class teacher as soon as possible when their child is diagnosed with an infectious illness
- providing updated information via the Child Health Care Plan and, if relevant, the Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan

Administration of Medications

Parents must notify class teacher in writing via the class communication book if a child needs medication. A 'Request to Administer Medication' form must be completed and given to the teacher along with the medication. Medication must be provided in its original container. Details of dosage and administration must be clearly outlined on the medication container.

Teachers will not dispense any medication (including over the counter medication) unless it has been prescribed.

All medications will be stored out of reach of children.

Medical record keeping

At the time of enrolment, parents will be required to complete a Child Health Care Plan. This document must be updated at the commencement of each school year.

Class teachers will be required to ensure that parents complete the document and file the original in their class files. The Administration Officer will ensure that copies of Child Health Care Plan are stored in the student files in the main office.

APPENDICES:

1. Child Health Care Plan
2. Request to Administer Medication Form

RELATED AND SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

1. Infectious and Communicable Diseases Policy
2. Healthy Eating Policy
3. Sun Protection Policy
4. Anaphylaxis and Allergy Management Policy
5. Beehive Montessori Child Health Policy