

## BATHING

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Standard 2.1: Each child's health is promoted

Standard 2.3: Each child is protected

Education and Care Services National Regulations

77 Health, Hygiene and safe food practices

84 Awareness of child protection

106 Laundry and hygiene facilities

109 Toilet and hygiene facilities

168 Education and Care Service must have policies and procedures

**PURPOSE** Bathing experiences need to be safe, hygienic and enjoyable, with the privacy of the child respected

**POLICY** In consultation with individual families, educators consider the bathing procedures for children of differing ages to ensure the child's health and safety; appropriate strategies are developed to ensure a child's needs for privacy is respected while bathing, while also ensuring the child's safety

## PROCEDURES

### Bathing facilities required

- appropriate bathing facilities must be available to accommodate children if required
- full bathing facilities include a shower or bath
- emergency bathing facilities include a portable baby bath or tub
- children attending care during the day will generally not require full bathing facilities
- children attending care overnight will usually require full bathing facilities

### Discussions required

educators must discuss with parents, their child's bathing requirements during the times a child attends care, and negotiate suitable arrangements in regard to:

- appropriate facility
- child's bathing routines and preferences

Taree Great Lakes Gloucester Five Star Family Day Care

**Hot water access**

- it is preferable the water temperature is regulated to a temperature below 50 degrees celsius
- if the water temperature has not been regulated, the hot tap should be disabled by removal of knob or child safety device fitted

**Bathing etiquette**

- children requiring full bathing facilities must be supervised adequately in regards to their age, parental request and need for privacy eg. babies and young children must be directly supervised by the educator at all times while bathing; with parental consent, older school aged children may shower or bathe by themselves
- Children, including siblings, must be bathed individually; if using a bath, the water must be changed between children
- The educator must ensure adequate supervision of the older children in care while either a full bath or emergency bath is taking place
- If the bathroom door is fitted with a lock, the lock must be designed to allow access from the out-side if required
- Registered educators are the only persons permitted to attend to children's bathing requirements while attending care (refer to Child Protection policy)

**Source:**

- Family Day care Safety Guidelines—Kidsafe
- [www.chw.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.chw.health.nsw.gov.au) - safety fact sheet—hot water

**Forms:**

- Family Enrolment forms

*Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action or termination of employment or registration as an educator*