

Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

Section 3. Learning what is required for meeting.

The following section will show you exactly what to do to ensure your practice is meeting. You **do not** need to complete this section if you have successfully completed 'Section 2'.

Why is the element important?

Element 2.1.2 and understood educators must model and implement:

- effective ways to manage children's illnesses and injuries
- infection control and hygiene procedures
- risk management approaches
- safe food practices (preparation, transport, storage).

Historically, there have been several common causes of death in children. These causes have varied across different time periods and regions. Here are some notable examples:

Infectious Diseases: In the past, infectious diseases were a leading cause of death among children. Diseases such as pneumonia, measles, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and polio caused significant mortality rates. The lack of effective vaccines, limited access to healthcare, and poor sanitation contributed to the spread of these diseases.

Malnutrition and Starvation: Inadequate access to nutritious food and proper nutrition has historically been a significant factor leading to child mortality. Malnutrition, particularly in impoverished communities or during times of famine or conflict, increased the vulnerability of children to various illnesses and infections.

Neonatal Conditions: Newborn health has been a critical concern throughout history. Premature birth complications, birth asphyxia, and congenital anomalies have been common causes of death among infants. Improvements in perinatal care, access to skilled birth attendants, and advancements in neonatal intensive

care have contributed to reducing neonatal mortality rates over time.

Respiratory Infections: Respiratory infections, including pneumonia and influenza, have been significant causes of child mortality. Factors such as overcrowded living conditions, poor ventilation, and limited access to healthcare have contributed to the prevalence of these infections.

Diarrheal Diseases: In regions with inadequate sanitation and limited access to clean water, diarrheal diseases have posed a significant threat to children's health. Contaminated water sources and poor hygiene practices have led to the spread of diseases like cholera, dysentery, and rotavirus, resulting in high mortality rates.



You must practice

It's important to acknowledge and address these potential causes of death and learn how scientific development along with policies, procedures and risk assessments have saved children's lives.

Promoting Children's Health and Hygiene

Effective Illness Management and Injury Prevention

We prioritise the well-being of children through effective illness management and exclude children with transmittable disease by following Staying Healthy in Childcare guidelines. We use injury prevention practices along with risk assessments. Our proactive approach to injury prevention includes supporting children in engaging in risky play while maintaining effective supervision. Through regular risk assessments and analysis, we identify potential risks and implement strategies to minimize them.

Maintaining High Standards of Infection Control and Hygiene

Creating a clean and hygienic environment is a priority for us. We follow guidelines from health authorities, especially after Covid to ensure high standards of infection control and hygiene. Our educators model and reinforce health and personal hygiene practices with children, encouraging habits such as regular handwashing and covering their mouths when coughing. By consistently implementing these practices, we instil them as lifelong habits in our young learners.

Hygiene and Sanitation in Practice

We have developed clear policies and procedures for maintaining cleanliness in our service. Our educators implement appropriate hygiene practices, including handwashing, toileting, nappy changing, and cleaning of equipment. We regularly assess the cleanliness of our environment and follow guidelines for laundering children's toys and equipment. By ensuring a clean and hygienic setting, we create a safe space for children to learn and grow.

Collaboration with Families and Access to Information

Collaboration with families is an integral part of our practice. We believe in open communication and provide families with information and resources to help them understand and implement health and hygiene practices at home. By addressing any concerns or misconceptions, we foster a collaborative partnership focused on children's well-being. We stay updated on current health guidelines and research from recognized authorities, ensuring that our practices are informed by the latest evidence.

Continued Learning and Growth

Our dedication to enhancing children's health and hygiene practices is an ongoing journey. We actively engage with professional networks and communities to share knowledge and best practices. Through continuous learning and growth, we stay connected to

the evolving field of early childhood education and make a positive impact on the health and well-being of the children in our care.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you are doing well? Describe your practice in detail so it can go directly into your QIP or SAT (NSW only).

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.

Week 18, 12 to 16 June 2023 – 2.1.2 Health practices and procedures

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