

Policy

Health checks in preschools

Please note this policy is mandatory and staff are required to adhere to the content

Summary

The Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) is committed to ensuring all children in DECD preschools receive health checks. To achieve this DECD staff will work in partnership with parents and the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN).

Table 1 - Document details

Publication date	20 April 2016
File number	6622/10
Related legislation	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Related policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, framework	Preschool Health Checks National Quality Standard Early Years Learning Framework Work Health and Safety
Version	2.3
Replaces	2.2
Policy officer (position)	Senior Policy Officer
Policy officer (phone)	8207 2433
Policy sponsor (position)	Manager, Preschool Policy and Programs
Executive director responsible (position and office)	Executive Director Statewide Services and Child Development
Applies to	All Department for Education and Child Development preschool leaders and staff in conjunction with the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN)
Key words	Preschool Health Checks, Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN), CaFHS nurse
Status	Approved
Approved by	Executive Director Statewide Services and Child Development
Approval date	8 April 2016

Review date	8 April 2019
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Table 2 - Revision record

Date	Version	Revision description
19 March 2013	2.2	
8 April 2016	2.3	Minor Edit- updated to the new policy format

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1. Title

Health Checks in Preschools Policy

2. Purpose

To ensure that children attending Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) preschools receive health checks – and to support this outcome by outlining the collaborative processes with parents and the Women’s and Children’s Health Network (WCHN).

3. Scope

This policy applies to all DECD preschool leaders and staff in collaboration with parents and WCHN staff.

4. Policy detail

4.1 Partnership

DECD is committed to working in partnership with parents and the WCHN to ensure children in preschools receive health checks. Health checks contribute to maximising the wellbeing and learning outcomes of preschool children. In this partnership DECD staff will:

- support all preschool age children to receive their entitlement to a health check, provided by the WCHN
- maintain a strong partnership with the WCHN to support this entitlement and to maintain the best possible learning outcomes for young children
- support collaborative partnerships between DECD and WCHN staff in order to maintain this valuable service for children and their families
- provide opportunities for preschool staff, parents and WCHN staff to discuss a child’s development and wellbeing before he/she commences school
- implement DECD and worksite policies, procedures and safe systems of work.

4.2 Context

This policy takes into account the Australian Government Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiatives to implement:

- The National Quality Framework (NQF) relating to the delivery of a higher standard of care for children in the critical areas of education, health and safety.
- The National Quality Standard (NQS) which establishes a national benchmark for the quality of education and care services, in particular in the areas of:
 - Quality Area 2 – Children’s Health and Safety
 - Quality Area 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities
- The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) – the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3 - Roles and responsibilities

Role	Authority/responsibility for
Preschool Policy and Programs Unit	Responsibility for the development of the Health checks in preschools policy in collaboration with the WCHN and as required provide advice regarding its implementation
Preschool director or school principal	Responsibility for the implementation of the Health checks in preschools policy in their site
Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) preschool staff	<p>DECD preschool staff are expected to co-operate in supporting the preschool health check by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the health check visit with all preschool families • distributing documents supplied by the WCHN to families • arranging appointments for families to attend the preschool when the health checks will be conducted • seeking consent from parents for information from the health check that may impact on children's health and wellbeing, to be shared with the preschool leader • liaising with the WCHN regarding health check appointments • providing a safe environment and equipment for WCHN staff conducting health checks including access for staff to furniture suitable for adults • designating a suitable quiet, safe and unobstructed area where the health checks can be undertaken • contributing to the development of alternative models of screening that focus on vulnerable children

6. Monitoring, evaluation and review

The Health Checks in Preschools Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Preschool Policy and Programs Unit, Statewide Services and Child Development Division. This will occur in consultation with the WCHN. Feedback will be sought from key stakeholders as part of this process.

7. Definitions and abbreviations

Table 4 - Definitions and abbreviations

Term	Meaning
Preschool	An approved early childhood educational program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher to children in the year before they start schooling. Preschools may also be referred to as a kindergarten, school-based preschool, children's services centre or integrated children's centre.
Departmental site	Department for Education and Child Development site.
Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN)	The government agency responsible for conducting health checks in preschools. Child and Family Health is part of this agency. The WCHN brings together the Women's and Children's Hospital and community-based health services in a state-wide health network for children, young people and women in South Australia.
The National Quality Framework (NQF)	Refers to the quality standard to improve education and care across long day care, family day care, preschool/kindergarten, and outside school hours care.
The National Quality Standard (NQS)	The National Benchmark for the Quality of Education and Care Services.
The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)	The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

8. References

[Preschool Health Checks](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

[Early Years Learning Framework](#)

[Work Health and Safety](#)