

## BATHING

### **AIM:**

To provide for the safety and protection of children in care, by minimising the risk of accidents during bathing.

### **PRACTICES:**

- 1) Bathing amenities used by Family Day Care children are to be maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times.
- 2) Educators will maintain close and vigilant supervision of children at all times - never leave a young child alone while bathing or when water is still in the bath. School aged children should be within sight or sound contact of the educator at all times.
- 3) Never leave a young child in the bath in the care of an older child or anyone else other than the educator.
- 4) Do not use a baby bath aid eg. bath cradle, bath seat.  
*(This is a recommendation of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission)*
- 5) Keep water to a minimum depth. *Run only enough water for washing and play. Belly-button depth or about 8 cm is plenty for a child who can sit up on their own.*
- 6) Be prepared for bathing a child before beginning to run the bath. Have all required items/equipment close at hand. When children are present, the educator should not leave the room for any reason once there is water in the bath.
- 7) Educators are to check the temperature of bath/shower water before a child enters the water.  
*(38° C is the recommended maximum bathing temperature for young children).*
- 8) Bath/shower time, where possible, is to be conducted outside of busy times.
- 9) Baths are to be emptied immediately after use. Never leave a baby bath unattended with water in it, even if it only contains a small amount of water.
- 10) Educators are to ensure the privacy of all children during bathing.
- 11) School aged children must not have unsupervised access to hot water unless it is regulated to keep it below temperatures that may scald a child. Children under school age must not have unsupervised access to any hot water.
- 12) Consideration of privacy and supervision requirements are to be taken into account (in consultation with parents) when older children are able to bathe themselves.
- 13) Statistics indicate that bathrooms are an area of high risk for children. Educators should take steps to make slippery areas (eg. bath tubs) safe for children (by use of non-slip mats/surfacing etc.) All potentially hazardous chemicals/items are to be inaccessible to children.
- 14) Educators should observe Work Health and Safety principles, especially manual handling guidelines (back care) when bathing children (and at all other times).

**Relevant Legislation:** *Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011;*  
*Work Health and Safety Act 2011;*

**Key Resources:** *The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Factsheets – Hot Water Burns Like Fire;*  
*Bath Cradles & Seats; [www.essentialbabycare.com.au/babycare/bathing](http://www.essentialbabycare.com.au/babycare/bathing);*