

Health checks in preschools policy

This is a mandated policy under the operational policy framework. Any edits to this policy must follow the process outlined on the [creating, updating and deleting operational policies](#) page.

Overview

The Department for Education (the department) is committed to supporting all children in department preschools to receive health checks. To achieve this, department staff will work in partnership with:

- parents
- the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) of the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN)
- other providers (such as general practitioners, Aboriginal health services).

Scope

This policy applies to all department preschool leaders and staff in collaboration with parents and CaFHS staff.



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Detail

Partnership

The department is committed to working in partnership with parents and CaFHS to support children in preschools to receive health checks, particularly those with identified need. Health checks contribute to maximising the wellbeing and learning outcomes of preschool children.

Staff from the department will:

- support preschool age children to have access to a health check, provided by CaFHS or other providers (for example, General Practitioner (GP), Aboriginal Health service)
- maintain a strong partnership with CaFHS to support this access and to maintain the best possible learning outcomes for young children
- support collaborative partnerships between the department and CaFHS staff to maintain this valuable service for children and their families
- provide opportunities for preschool staff, parents and CaFHS staff to discuss a child's development and wellbeing before they start school
- support parents to access health information on child development to build health literacy
- implement department and worksite policies, procedures and safe systems of work.

Context

This policy considers the:

- National Quality Framework (NQF) – relates to the delivery of a higher standard of care for children in the critical areas of education, health and safety.
- [National Quality Standard](#) (NQS) – 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.
- [Early Years Learning Framework \(PDF 24.9MB\)](#) (EYLF).

Roles and responsibilities

Director, Early Childhood Services and Strategy

Endorse this policy.

Preschool Policy and Advice Unit

Review and evaluate the health checks in preschools policy in collaboration with CaFHS.

Preschool director or school principal

Implement this policy at their school or preschool.

Department preschool staff

Promote access to health checks to all preschool families.

Distribute documents supplied by CaFHS to families.

Advise families on where to access a health check and how to make an appointment.

Seek 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.

Advise families on where to access appropriate health or development support services as required.

Liaise with CaFHS regarding health check appointments.

Provide a safe environment and equipment for CaFHS staff conducting health checks at department sites including access for staff to furniture suitable for adults.

Designate a suitable quiet, safe and unobstructed area where the health checks can be undertaken.

Contribute to the development of alternative models of screening that focus on vulnerable children.

Definitions

preschool

An approved early childhood educational program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher to children in the year before they start school.

Preschools may also be referred to as a kindergarten, school-based preschool, children's services centre or integrated children's centre.

Child and Family Health Service (of the Women's and Children's Health Network [WCHN])

The government department responsible for conducting health checks in preschools.

The WCHN brings together the Women's and Children's Hospital and community-based health services in a statewide health network for children, young people and women in South Australia.

National Quality Framework (NQF)

The quality standard to improve education and care across long day care, family day care, preschool or kindergarten, and outside school hours care.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

The national benchmark for the quality of education and care services.

Supporting information

[Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

[Health Checks \(Child and Family Health Service\)](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

Related legislation

[Education and Early Childhood Standards \(Registrations and Standards\) Act 2011 \(National Law – ACECQA website\)](#)

Related policies

[Early Years Learning Framework \(PDF 24.9MB\)](#)

[Work health and safety policy](#)

Record history

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Approvals

OP number: 098

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Status: approved

Version: 2.6

Policy officer: Senior Policy Officer, Preschool Policy and Advice

Policy sponsor: Manager, Preschool Policy and Advice

Responsible Executive Director: Head of the Office for the Early Years

Approved by: Director, Early Childhood Services and Strategy

Approved date: 24 February 2024

Next review date: 24 February 2027

Revision record

Version: 2.7

Approved by: Director, Early Childhood Services and Strategy

Approved date: 24 February 2024

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Amendment(s): Updated hyperlinks.

Version: 2.6

Approved by: Director, Early Childhood Services and Strategy

Approved date: 21 January 2022

Review date: 21 January 2025

Amendment(s): Minor edit to update contact details and to align titles with the new Office for the Early Years.

Version: 2.5

Approved by: Director, Early Childhood Services, Strategy Development

Approved date: 21 November 2020

Review date: 21 November 2023

Amendment(s): In consultation with Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) policy intent and links reviewed.

Version: 2.4

Approved by: Director, Early Childhood Services

Approved date: 21 June 2019

Review date: 1 December 2020

Amendment(s): Minor edit – machinery of government changes and hyperlinks corrected. New branding applied to document, published as HTML document on EDi, edited for plain English in consultation with Communications directorate.

Version: 2.3

Approved by: Executive Director, Statewide Services and Child Development

Approved date: 8 April 2016

Review date: 8 April 2019

Amendment(s): Minor edit – updated to the new policy format.

Version: 2.2

Approved date: 19 March 2013

Contact

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