Bottle Safety and Preparation

1. Policy Statement

Children are more susceptible to food borne illness making it necessary for education and care services to implement adequate health and hygiene practices. Safe practices for handling, storing, preparing and heating breast milk or formula must be employed to minimise risks to children being educated and cared for by the service.

2. Legislative Requirements

Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
www.foodstandards.gov.au

Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)


Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:

77 Health, hygiene and safe food practices

(1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that the nominated supervisor and staff members of, and volunteers at, the service implement:
   a) adequate health and hygiene practices; and
   b) safe practices for handling, preparing and storing food to minimise risks to children being educated and cared for by the service.

(2) The nominated supervisor of an education and care service must implement, and ensure that all staff members of, and volunteers at, the service implement:
   a) adequate health and hygiene practices; and
   b) safe practices for handling, preparing and storing food to minimise risks to children being educated and cared for by the service.

78 Food and beverages

(1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that children being educated and cared for by the service
   a) have access to safe drinking water at all times; and
   b) are offered food and beverages appropriate to the needs of each child on a regular basis throughout the day.

(2) The nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that children being educated and cared for by the service
   a) have access to safe drinking water at all times; and
   b) are offered food and beverages on a regular basis throughout the day.

3. Who is affected by this policy?

a) Child
b) Parents
c) Staff
d) Management

4. Implementation

UWSELL will:

A. Ensure that the Nominated Supervisor and educators are aware of the procedures for preparing, heating and storing bottles of formula and breast milk.

B. Ensure that children have access to safe drinking water at all times and are regularly offered food and beverages appropriate to their individual needs.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

A. Ensure that educators implement the procedures for preparing, heating and storing bottles of formula and breast milk.

B. Develop written procedures for the safe storage and heating of food provided in bottles.

Educators will:

A. Implement safe food handling practices.

B. Seek to provide a supportive environment for breastfeeding.

C. Store all bottles in an appropriate area for food preparation and storage that complies with the food safety standards for kitchens and food preparation areas.

Families will:

A. Will be informed during orientation that children’s bottles must be clearly labelled with the child’s name. If bottles contain breast milk or formula the bottles also need to be labelled with the date of preparation or expression.
B. Will be required to supply breast milk in well-labelled, multiple small quantities to prevent wastage.

C. May be required to keep formula powder at the education and care service so that the formula can be prepared as required or supply the appropriate number of bottles each day. Tins of formula must be clearly labelled with the child’s name.

D. May be required to supply bottles already prepared with formula.

E. Will be required to provide a labelled bottle(s) for use at the education and service for children having regular cow’s milk in their bottles.

The Licensee/Director/Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

5. Sources

- NSW Food Authority – www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
- Food Standards Australia – www.foodstandards.gov.au
- National Health and Medical Research Council – www.nhmrc.gov.au
- Australian Breastfeeding Association - www.breastfeeding.asn.au
- Mothers Direct - www.mothersdirect.com.au

6. Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: 12.05.12
Date for next review: 12.05.13

Approved by UWSELL Board
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