

HEALTH & SAFETY - BATHING

POLICY

Family Day Care acknowledges that there are circumstances when children may need to be bathed or showered whilst in Family Day Care.

Family Day Care children will only be bathed or showered:

- On request from parent/guardian (Parent/guardians are not encouraged to rely on bathing/showering as a service; the task will be carried out depending on circumstance and numbers of children in care).
- If the Educator's duty of care requires bathing, for the child's personal care and hygiene and the parents/guardian are informed.

Responsibility:

- Only the fully registered Educator will participate in the Family Day Care bathing/showering routine.
- A non slip surface will be provided in the bath/shower.
- No bathing aid, baby seat or support can be used.
- A child being showered must be over 4 yrs old.
- From the age of 0 to 9yrs old the child will have 1:1 supervision.
- From the age of 9yrs supervision will always be at least within hearing range.
- When running the bath or shower always finish by adding cold water to ensure tap handles and nozzles are cool.
- The Educator must ensure the child's dignity and privacy during undressing and dressing.

PROCEDURE

Bathing and Showering

- Bathing and showering must only take place in the bathroom (not a wash tub or wash trough).
- Before beginning, Educators need to check to make sure all they need is ready including;
 - Check water temperature (must be between 37-39 degrees Celsius)
 - Fresh nappies (if required) and clothes
 - Clean towel and face washer
 - Gloves for nappy change and plastic bag to dispose of nappy
- Wipe up any water spills around the bathroom immediately; this is a slipping hazard.
- When the routine is complete, remove the child from the water and empty the bath (place the plug out of reach).
- For a child under 6yrs old, dry the child and redress before leaving the bathroom area.
- For a child above 6yrs old, encourage the child to dry and dress in the bathroom area before coming back into the care environment; this may need closer supervision and support.

Please note: Stated ages may vary depending upon children's specific developmental needs.