

## Background

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Offering families hot beverages within the education and care environment supports the development of meaningful relationships within the Services community, however as babies and young children may be present in the location of the offered beverage there is an inherent risk for their safety with the potential of burns and scalds occurring.

Almost every day in Queensland, 1 child ages up to 4 is taken to hospital by ambulance after experiencing a burn, and 3 children under the age of 4 are treated in an emergency department for a burn injury.

## Policy statement

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This policy details the Services approach to safely offering families hot beverages for personal consumption upon exiting the Service at the time of dropping their child off at the education and care setting, with the safety and wellbeing of children being of the highest priority.

## Strategies and practices

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- At enrolment, parents provide the Service with details of their child's food and drink allergies and of any cultural preferences in food. The enrolment form has provisions for parents to provide the Service with details of any special dietary requirements e.g. allergies, culture, religion, food preferences. Parents are asked to update this information when any changes occur.
- Staff follow all regulatory requirements for preparing and serving food. These include handwashing, wearing gloves, using tongs to handle food, ensuring children do not share utensils or use those that have been dropped. Refer to the Service's Food Preparation, Storage and Handling Policy.
- The Service is a nut free zone, and no nuts or nut products are to be brought into the Service or served.
- The Service provides staff with appropriate training in safe food handling. They are provided with current information on nutrition for young children, with special regard to cultural preferences.

## Additional safe practices for babies

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Hot beverages must not be consumed in and around babies.

## Responsibilities of parents

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- To provide the Service with details of their child's known food allergies at enrolment, and to inform the Service immediately when any changes occur.
- To discuss their child's food allergies, if any, with them and to ensure they understand the importance of not sharing food.

## Procedures and forms

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## Links to other policies

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- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Injuries, Injury, Trauma, and Illness Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Student, Volunteers and Visitors Policy

## Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2011

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Regs	77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
	78	Food and beverages
	90	Medical conditions policy
	91	Medical conditions policy to be provided to parents
	162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
	168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

QA	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
	2.1.3	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child
	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
	5.1.1	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included
	5.1.2	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained

## Sources

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- Early Years Learning Framework 2009
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2018
- McKenzie K, Scott D, Limbong J, & Li E. 2011. Feasibility Of Using Health Data Sources To Inform Product Safety Surveillance In Queensland. National Centre for Health Information Research and Training, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

## Further reading and useful websites

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- Queensland Government – Early Childhood Education and Care: Serving coffee, tea or treats to parents or carers? Let's consider the risks - [https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/news/educators/serving-coffee-tea-treats-parents-carers?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=A+to+Z+-+Edition+123+-+September+2020&utm\\_content=Serving+coffee%2C+tea+or+treats+to+parents+Manage+the+risks&utm\\_source=www.vision6.com.au](https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/news/educators/serving-coffee-tea-treats-parents-carers?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=A+to+Z+-+Edition+123+-+September+2020&utm_content=Serving+coffee%2C+tea+or+treats+to+parents+Manage+the+risks&utm_source=www.vision6.com.au) accessed 23 August 2023

## Hot Beverages – Service Provided

- Children's Health Queensland <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/media-release-hot-drinks-foods-leading-cause-of-serious-burns-to-kids-in-winter/> accessed 23 August 2023
- Kidsafe – Fact Sheet: Burns - <https://kidsafeqld.com.au/?s=burns> accessed 23 August 2023

### Policy review

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The Service encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the annual review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

### Version Control

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Version	Date Reviewed	Approved By	Comments/Amendments	Next Review Date
1				
2	29 September 2022	Linda Hollard	Reviewed policy Accessed resources and added additional information	September 2023
3	23 August 2023	Grace McKinstry	Reviewed policy Accessed resources and additional information	August 2023