



PATTERSON LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Outside School Hours Care – Epilepsy Policy

RATIONALE

Children enrolled in the Outside School Hours Care program will receive best care practices from staff when managing their medical conditions.

AIM

Our service and educators welcome children with epilepsy. We ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and will adopt inclusive practices for the additional requirements of children with epilepsy in a respectful and confidential manner.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Our service will ensure all educators are aware of the enrolment of a child with epilepsy and have an understanding of the condition and the additional requirements of the individual child.

Epilepsy and Learning

Epilepsy refers to recurrent seizures where there is a disruption of normal electrical activity in the brain that can cause disturbance of consciousness and/or body movements.

The effects of epilepsy can vary. Some children will suffer no adverse effects while epilepsy may impact others by affecting, for example, their comprehension, expressive language, visual perception, concentration and memory. Some children with epilepsy may have absence seizures where they are briefly unconscious. Our educators will ensure they go over any learning or activity a child may have missed during a seizure.

The level of expectation for each child has a significant influence on performance. Our educators will facilitate a positive environment of encouragement, stimulation and reassurance.

Behaviour Support

Our educators will ensure that any routine management of a child's epilepsy, including the administration of any medication, occurs with minimal disruption to their education and care.

As for all children, behaviour expectations for children with epilepsy should be consistent and predictable, and also sufficiently flexible to accommodate periods of stress and any emotional difficulties a child with epilepsy may be experiencing.

Our educators will nurture the self-esteem of all children, including those with epilepsy, and create a positive environment of inclusiveness and acceptance for all children.

Information Sharing: Confidentiality and Privacy

Our service will adhere to privacy and confidentiality principles when dealing with each child's health and safety needs.

The sharing of information, including the amount and type of information, will be assessed and negotiated for each child with epilepsy. Educators need information about routine and predictable emergency care because it affects the child's learning, access to the curriculum and their safety. Information exchange between the family, health professionals and the service is also essential to support the child's emotional health and enhance their peer support. Young children, for example often enjoy sharing the news and their experiences of living with epilepsy with their classmates. This should be discussed with parents so that they can support their child in this process.

REFERENCES

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Australia: <http://www.jdrf.org.au/>

Asthma Foundation: <http://www.asthmafoundation.org.au>

Anaphylaxis Australia: <http://allergyfacts.org.au/>

Education & Care Services National Regulations (under sections 301 & 304 of the Education and Care Services National Law) Regulation 90, 91, 94

National Standards: Quality Area 2 & 3

Last Updated: November 2018

EVALUATION

Guidelines are updated annually and/or as per DET recommendations.

CERTIFICATION

This policy was ratified at the School Council meeting held at Patterson Lakes Primary School, November 2018.

Signed 
School Council President

Signed *b. clayes*
Principal