

POLICY STATEMENT

BATHING AND SHOWERING

AUTHORISATION

POLICY TYPE:	Operational
POLICY LOCATION:	Corporate
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Children Services Coordinator
AUTHORISED BY:	Director, Corporate and Community Services
DATE ADOPTED:	
ADOPTED BY:	Manex
MINUTE NO:	
REVIEW DUE DATE:	July 2025
REVISION NUMBER:	
RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	This policy supports Council's Delivery Program Strategy 4.2: Provide quality, accredited and affordable Education and Care Services within Bland Shire and surrounds (Bland Preschool, Family Day Care, Mobile Resource Unit and Toy Library services).

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS <i>Include names of former policies that this policy will replace if applicable</i>	AMENDED BY <i>(Where required)</i>
1	August 2021		CSU Coordinator

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed within TWO (2) years from the date of adoption or as required in the event of legislative changes. The Policy may also be changed as a result of other amendment that are to the advantage that Council and in the spirit of this Policy.

Any amendment to the Policy must be with the approval of the General Manager/Manex.

1. Purpose:

When children are in care, Educators and the Nominated Supervisor will develop strategies for supervising bathing and dressing, which protects the child's dignity and respects their privacy.

Particular attention is paid to this area when children are in Family Day Care for extended hours or overnight care, and bathing and showering should be limited.

2. Scope:

This policy document applies to all staff and Educators of the Bland/Temora Family Day Care Scheme, with Bland Shire Council as the approved provider. As well as children and families enrolled within a Bland Shire Children Service.

3. Outcomes:

To ensure bathing and showering of children will be conducted in consultation with the families and the child's dignity, privacy and rights respected at all times in a safe environment.

4. Roles and Responsibilities:

Educators will:

Bathing –

- Before any child baths, ensure all materials are ready in advance (towels, face washers, pump soap etc.
- Be present at all times.
- Run the bath prior to the child being in the bath.
- Ensure hot water is turned down to 50°C or the hot water tap is covered.
- Check the temperature of the water in the bath using their bare skin prior to placing the child in the bath. If the skin flushes when you put it in the water, the water is too hot for a child.
- Ensure that the water in the bath reaches no higher than approximately a child's belly button or approximately eight (8) cm for a child who sits on their own.
- Not add water to the bath while the child is in it.
- Only bath one (1) child at any one time.
- Use fresh water for each child that is bathed.
- Ensure the water is let out of the bath as soon as bath time is over.

Showering –

- Before any child showers, ensure all materials are ready in advance (towels, face washers, pump soap, etc).
- Be present at all times.
- Run the shower prior to the child being in the shower to ensure the temperature of the water is safe. If the skin flushes when placed in water, the water is too hot for a child.
- Ensure hot water is turned down to 50°C or the hot water tap is covered.
- Ensure that any plugs or objects that may plug the shower drain are out of reach of children.

In addition a Family Day Care Educator will –

When a school-aged child is in care, through consultation with the parent, allow the child to have either a shower or bath. The child will be supervised at all times or their need for privacy will be respected depending on the child's age. If the Educator is not physically present within the same room at all times, the Educator will check on the child at least every 2-5 (two to five) minutes through verbal communication without disrespecting the child's privacy and the Educator will stay within hearing distance of the shower or bath.

5. Definitions:

This policy refers to Educators registered or seeking registration with Bland/Temora Family Day Care or Bland Shire Children Services Unit. The term 'scheme' refers to Bland/Temora Family Day Care Coordination Unit with Bland Shire Council licenced as its approved provider.

6. Legislation and Supporting Documents:

Education and Care Services National Law 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulation and Act 2011 (NSW)
Guide to the National Quality Framework 2023