



**ABC Kidz
Educare**
“We nurture happiness”

HIV and AIDS Policy

*Date Policy Written: **January 2020***

*Date of current revision: **July 2022***

*Date of next revision: **July 2023***

*Person responsible: **Esme Olyn***

Aims and Intent

We do not discriminate against any child with HIV/AIDS nor refuse the child entry to ABC KIDZ EDUCARE, if there is space.

This is in keeping with International standards, education law and the Constitutional Rights to a basic education, not to be unfairly discriminated against, to life and bodily integrity, to privacy, and to a safe environment, in the best interests of the child

The aims of ABC KIDZ EDUCARE HIV/AIDS Policy are to:

1. To provide a safe ECD Centre.
2. To prevent the spread of HIV infection and provide the necessary blood precautions being carried out (Universal Precautions).
3. Provide an environment in which all children are supported to reach their full potential.
4. Promote the Right to Education for Children with HIV/AIDS and facilitate the provision of quality Early Childhood Development to *all* children.
5. Provide the necessary care during the ECD Centre day.
6. Provide guidance to the Practitioners, in terms of addressing social barriers that exclude children with HIV/AIDS.
7. To demystify HIV & AIDS • Allay fears • Reduce stigma • Instill non-discriminatory attitudes Develop knowledge, skills, values and attitudes in order that they may adopt and maintain behavior that will protect them from HIV infection and to support infected and affected. The policy provides a framework for development of provincial and schools policies and strategic plans for implementation thereof It further recommends establishment of health advisory committees
8. Demistify HIV/AIDS in order to eliminate bias on the basis of HIV/AIDS.

Method

1. This policy will be implemented and updated by Esme Olyn Principal and Wilna Terblanche, Nursing sister.

2. The above named persons will be assisted by members of staff who perform the roles that are required for this policy.

Key Facts

This policy is informed by the National Policy On Hiv And Aids For Learners And Educators In Public Schools And Students And Educators In Further Education And Training Institutions (10 August 1999 Volume 410 Number 20372) and it is underpinned by the following principles:

Accessibility to:

1. Quality ECD provision for all children.
2. Physical access, i.e. ramps and appropriate ablution facilities.
3. We are prepared to make changes to suit individual needs where possible.

Disclosure of HIV & AID status:

1. The children, practitioners and support staff are not compelled to disclose their status.
2. In cases where voluntary disclosure of their status has been done, it should be treated confidentially.

Support system and protection for the children and their families

1. We provide parents with information on sources of independent advice and support.
2. We work closely with the parents of children with special educational needs to create and maintain a positive partnership.
3. We are willing to work in partnership with the child's medical practitioners/therapists.
4. Children with any infectious/communicable illnesses, such as measles, German measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, mumps, tonsillitis, coals, flu, pink eye, etc may not come to school. This is in order to protect everybody in the school, especially those whose immune systems may be impaired by HIV/AIDS.
5. At ABC KIDZ EDUCARE inform parents of Municipal vaccination/inoculation programmes and of their possible significance for the wellbeing of learners and students with HIV/AIDS.

Access to appropriate, independent services

We will refer parents to appropriate service providers/medical practitioners/therapists when the need arises.

Inclusion

1. The children with disabilities from our neighbourhood benefit from the stimulation of learning and playing with neighbourhood peers.
2. Their desire to participate in group activities motivates them to work harder on developmental goals.

Curriculum

1. Promotes self-respect and self-sufficiency.
2. Supports emotional and social development, and integration.
3. We use the Birth to 4 Years Curriculum to provide a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum for children with HIV/AIDS.

Employment

1. The Practitioners at ABC KIDZ EDUCARE have the required training to work with children with HIV/AIDS.
2. We employ sufficient Practitioners to accommodate the care that children with HIV/AIDS need require.
3. Endeavour to accommodate the needs of any staff member with HIV/AIDS, and will strive to adapt the facilities if possible.
4. Our Employment Agreement ensures a commitment to diversity and equality.
5. All our staff are aware of this HIV/AIDS Policy and are aware that the care and education of children with HIV/AIDS is the responsibility of each and every staff member.
6. We provide on-going training for practitioners.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. We use the graduated approach to monitor and evaluate the children's progress and ensure that children with HIV/AIDS are appropriately evaluated, taking into account the number of day they may have not been to school as they may have been ill.
2. We monitor and evaluate the progress the children make in the classroom 3 times per annum.
3. We ensure that parents are informed at all stages of their children's education.
4. We monitor and review our policy, practice and provision and, if necessary, make adjustments.

Nutrition

1. The menus at ABC KIDZ EDUCARE are nutritious, well-balanced and tasty.
2. Practitioners keep a daily record documenting the type and quantity of food and beverages each child consumes every school day.
3. The parents are provided with that information on a daily basis.
4. We do not serve sugary drinks, but rather very lightly sugared rooibos tea, without milk; cool tea in summer and warm tea in winter.

A Safe School

Universal Precautions For The Handling Of Blood

Universal Precautions have been implemented at ABC KIDZ EDUCARE to eliminate the risk of transmission of blood-borne pathogens. These precautions are consistently applied and include the following:

1. All blood, open wounds, sores, breaks in the skin, grazes and open skin lesions, as well as all body fluids and excretions which could be stained or contaminated with blood (for example tears, saliva, mucus, phlegm, urine, vomit, faeces and pus) are treated as potentially infectious.
2. Blood, especially in large spills such as from nosebleeds, and old blood or blood stains, should be handled with extreme caution.
3. Skin exposed accidentally to blood is washed immediately with soap and running water.
4. All bleeding wounds, sores, breaks in the skin, grazes and open skin lesions are cleaned immediately with running water and antiseptics. Then they are covered completely and securely with a non-porous or waterproof dressing or plaster so that there is no risk of exposure to blood.
5. If there is a biting or scratching incident where the skin is broken, the wound is washed and cleansed under running water, dried, treated with antiseptic and covered with a waterproof dressing.
6. Blood splashes to the face (mucous membranes of eyes, nose or mouth) are flushed with running water for at least three minutes.
7. Disposing of blood contaminated materials:
 - a. Hygienic and secure containers have been made available to dispose of sanitary wear.
 - b. Hygienic and secure containers have been provided to dispose of cotton wool, gauze and other items used when cleaning/dressing wounds which are sealed in a plastic bag before being put into the container.
 - c. Tissues and paper towels are flushed down the toilet.
8. Cleansing and washing of wounds is always done with running water and not in containers of water. Where running tap water is not available, containers should be used to pour water over the area to be cleansed. ECD Centres without running water should keep a supply, e.g. in a 25-litre drum, on hand specifically for use in emergencies. This water can be kept fresh for a long period of time by adding a disinfectant, such as Milton, to it.
9. The staff attending to blood spills, open wounds, sores, breaks in the skin, grazes, open skin lesions, body fluids and excretions are required wear protective latex gloves or plastic bags over their hands to eliminate the risk of HIV transmission.
10. Bleeding can be managed by compression with material that will absorb the blood, e.g. a towel.

11. If a surface has been contaminated with body fluids and excretions which could be stained or contaminated with blood (for instance tears, saliva, mucus, phlegm, urine, vomit, faeces and pus), that surface should be cleaned with running water and fresh, clean household bleach (1:10 solution), and paper or disposable cloths.
12. The person doing the cleaning must wear protective gloves or plastic bags.
13. If instruments (for instance scissors) become contaminated with blood or other body fluids, they should be washed and placed in a strong household bleach solution for at least one hour before drying and re-using.
14. Our Practitioners are trained in first aid and each classroom has a first aid kit.
15. The kits contain:
 - a. Latex gloves for the Practitioner and the Assistant (or unbroken plastic bags).
 - b. Household rubber gloves to be used in specific instances, e.g. when handling broken glass.
 - c. Absorbent, waterproof plasters
 - d. Disinfectant
 - e. Scissors
 - f. Cotton Wool
 - g. Gauze
 - h. Tissues
 - i. Container for fresh water
 - j. Resuscitation mouth piece
 - k. Protective eye wear (eye glasses)
 - l. Protective face mast that covers nose and mouth (head scarf).
 - m. First aid kits and universal precaution kits are carried by the playground supervisor.
16. The contents of the first aid kits and universal precaution kits are checked once a week by the Practitioner, against a contents list.
17. Expired or depleted items are replaced immediately.
18. First aid and universal precautions kits are taken with on outings and excursions and are available at all school events.
19. Both kits are also kept in the office.
20. The children are repeatedly taught not to touch anybody else's blood or any other body fluids whatsoever. They should rather call an adult to help.
21. Every single member of staff and parent have been informed about the Universal Precautions that are adhered to ABC KIDZ EDUCARE.
22. The Universal Precautions are taught to the children age appropriately.

Prevention Of Transmission During Play

Studies show that the risk of HIV transmission as a result of play is generally insignificant. However, the risk increases if blood handling is not properly carried out on the playground. In order to contain the situation, the following applies:

1. Adequate wound management, in the form of the application of universal precautions, is mandatory.
2. No child may participate in games with an an open wound, sore, break in the skin, graze or open skin lesion.
3. If bleeding occurs during outside time, the child is removed from the playground and immediately and treated appropriately as described in paragraphs Universal Procedures For Handling Blood (above).
4. The child may continue playing when open wound, sore, break in the skin, graze or open skin lesion has been completely and securely covered.
5. Blood-stained clothes must be changed and stored as described in the Universal Procedures For Handling Blood (above).

The same precautions are applied to injured practitioners, staff members and parents

Implications On Other Policies

1. **Revised National Curriculum Statement (CAPS):** HIV and AIDS issues cut across all learning areas and, therefore, they are incorporated in all our lesson plans.

2. Learners of compulsory school-going age with HIV/AIDS, who are unable to benefit from attendance at school or home education, may be granted exemption from attendance in terms of section 4(1) of the South African Schools Act, 1996, by the Head of Department, after consultation with the principal, the parent and the medical practitioner where possible.
3. If and when learners and students with HIV/AIDS become incapacitated through illness, the school will make work available to them for study at home and will provide support where possible.
4. **Assessment Policy:**
 - a. It is important that learners who are likely to experience barriers to learning and development, through their HIV/AIDS status, are identified early, assessed and provided with learning support.
 - b. Our Assessment framework provides multiple opportunities, adaptive methods of assessment.
5. **Inclusive Education for children at risk:** Our curriculum is fully inclusive taking into account the impact and spread of HIV and AIDS and other infectious diseases.
6. **Continued Professional Development Plan (CPDP):** The CPDP at (Name of School) includes training programmes that address HIV and AIDS.
7. Our whole school evaluation, school development plans (vision, mission) and school improvement plans include and HIV and AIDS planned strategy to cope with the pandemic.

This policy was adopted on **03 January 2020**. At **Braamfontein and** is in full force and effect at **ABC Kidz Educare**. Where necessary all the parents have been informed of this policy. All our employees have a good understanding of the contents of this policy and if at any time any of the clauses in this policy are contravened, normal disciplinary sanctions, as per the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, will be taken.

Name and Signature 1:

Name and Signature 2:

Name and Signature 3:

References:

http://www.chr.up.ac.za/undp/domestic/docs/policies_05.pdf