

16 August 2019

LGOIMA No. 8140005264
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

James Lochead-Macmillan

Sent by email: fyi-request-10795-1aca33bd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987

Early childhood education centres and reusable nappies

I refer to your email dated 24 July 2019 in which you requested information about early childhood education centres and the possible use of reusable nappies.

The specific details of your request and our response is below:

1. Please provide a copy of the audit template used when ECE centres request to use re-usable nappies?

Auckland Council and the Nappy Lady have been collaborating with Auckland Early Childhood Centres (ECCs) since October 2012, to encourage them to try using cloth nappies rather than disposables and reduce their operating and waste disposal costs.

There is no requirement for centres to make a request to Auckland Council to use cloth nappies (outside of the trial process) as they are controlled by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.

Centres are required by the Ministry of Education to have comprehensive health and safety policies already in place and if their existing policy doesn't cover reusable nappies, they can modify it at any time.

Centres are required by the Ministry of Health to have their own health and safety guidelines for changing procedures (equipment and personal protective equipment) and to have these displayed in changing areas.

There is no audit template used by council for the trial. When council is contacted by a centre we provide them with the cloth nappy trial proposal document (refer **Attachment 1**) and also highlight the requirement for hot washing facilities to reach 60 degrees Celsius, in order to meet Ministry of Health requirements.

Auckland Council staff will also visit the centre before the trial starts to review their changing and washing facilities to check they have suitable equipment in place to deal with soiled nappies during and after the changing process.

Centre staff are also made aware of the requirement to use an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal additive (Dettol or Canesten) as well as sensitive laundry detergent, in both written and verbal form before the trial starts.

2. All information regarding potential cross contamination between children, regarding bacteria, pathogens and viruses and how these are checked?

Please refer to **Attachment 2** which is a copy of key pages from the support booklet provided to all centres participating in the nappy trial.

These pages outline the actions taken to prevent potential cross-contamination.

3. A copy of the process centres are to follow, including equipment, external texting and Personal Protective Equipment requirements?

Early childhood centres are required by the Ministry of Health to have their own health and safety guidelines for changing procedures and these must be displayed in changing areas. There is no difference in the requirement whether using reusable or disposable nappies.

Please refer to **Attachment 3** which is an extract from the Environmental Health Protection Manual – Licensing Criteria HS3.

Attachments 4 and 5 are examples of health and safety guidelines.

Modern cloth nappies do not require harsh chemicals to clean them, as the technology of modern washing machines and cleaning products eliminates the need for soaking and bleaching.

Centres are provided with washing procedures to follow during a nappy trial (refer **Attachment 6**), which state the temperature requirement for a hot wash and the use of anti-bacterial and anti-fungal additives and sensitive laundry powder.

If you feel that we have not responded adequately to your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on (09) 301 0101 quoting LGOIMA No. 8140005264.

Yours sincerely



Joanne Kearney
Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services

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The decision to grant your request in full was made by Andrew Ovenden, General Manager, Waste Solutions.