

# Bottle Safety and Preparation Policy



<b>Policy Relevant to:</b>	All team members, Educators & families
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	May 2025
<b>Next Review:</b>	May 2027
<b>ECS National Law:</b>	
<b>ECS National Regulations:</b>	r77, r78, r168, r170, r171, r172
<b>NQS:</b>	2.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2, 2.2.1

## Rational

As young children (particularly those under 12 months) are still developing their immune system, they are more susceptible to foodborne illnesses and infection. This therefore, makes it imperative that education and care services implement and maintain the highest level of hygiene practices. Adventure Patch services will ensure that safe practices are consistently maintained for handling, storing, preparing and heating breast milk and formula, and sterilising bottles and teats.

## Policy

To ensure Adventure Patch services maintains a safe and hygienic environment for all infants and toddlers requiring a bottle, educators will sterilise and prepare bottles safely and hygienically in accordance with recognised guidelines and best practice. All educators preparing and/or handling bottles will have undergone training in safe food handling.

## Implementation

During their first year of life, babies are at their most vulnerable to viruses, bacteria, and parasitic infections, due to their immune system not yet being fully developed. Unsafe or careless food handling practices can therefore lead to anything from a mild attack of thrush to a more serious condition of gastroenteritis, all of which are similar to food poisoning and can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, and subsequent dehydration.

To ensure that bottles are consistently prepared in a safe and hygienic manner, educators will adhere to Service procedures at all times.

### Adventure Patch will ensure:

- Procedures for the safe storage and heating of food provided in bottles are strictly adhered to.
- Educators are aware of, and strictly adhere to, the procedures for washing and sterilising bottles and teats, and preparing, heating and storing bottles of formula and breast milk.
- Procedures for the safe storage and heating of food provided in bottles are strictly adhered to.
- Infants over 6 months of age are given small amounts of cooled boiled water in addition to breastmilk or formula as required.

- Infants are given only breast milk, formula, or cooled boiled water: they are not given fruit juice in their bottle due to the increase risk of tooth decay.
- Ensure families are familiar with their responsibilities in accordance with this policy.

### Other Policies

Food Safety Policy Handwashing Policy Health & Safety Policy	Nutrition Policy Sleep and Rest Policy
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### Sources

Australian Breastfeeding Association [www.breastfeeding.asn.au](http://www.breastfeeding.asn.au)

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. [Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood](#).

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ECA Code of Ethics. (2016).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).

Food Standards Australia – [www.foodstandards.gov.au](http://www.foodstandards.gov.au)

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2024). *Staying Healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (6th Ed.). NHMRC. Canberra.


NSW Ministry of Health. (2014). Caring for children birth to 5 years: Food, nutrition and learning experiences. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/health/Publications/caring-for-children-manual.pdf>

Safe Food and Health Service Executive. (2013). How to prepare your baby's bottle.

### Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Lindy Davis	Manager LDC	September 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	May 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	May 2027
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor policy maintenance</li> <li>• hyperlinks checked and repaired as required</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policy maintenance - no major changes to policy</li> <li>• hyperlinks checked and repaired as required</li> <li>• added related policy list</li> </ul>	May 2025	

### Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris