

Health Promoting School Concepts

Purpose

The purpose of the Health Promoting Schools Program is to promote a range of activities to ensure a healthy and safe environment for students and teachers, and to educate students, teachers and the community about healthy living.

Responsibility

Head Teachers and staff in Health Promoting Schools are responsible for carrying out the program in their school.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education are responsible to provide supporting materials and events for the program.

Policy

Good health practices contribute to better learning.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health will work together to promote health in schools for the sake of the nation.

Specifically they will create programs to:

1. Promote a good working environment for teachers and students.
2. Support school structure to promote and protect health.
3. Create a safe and healthy school environment and provide health basic services.
4. Involve family and community to promote health.
5. Develop policy to ensure Health Promoting School in the operation of the school.
6. Strengthen health promotion activities in the school.
7. Ensure a commitment to positive change in life style which is sustainable in the future.

Procedure

There are six areas for which components and checkpoints are listed below:

1. School Health Policy
2. School Social Environment
3. School Physical Environment
4. Community Relationship
5. Personal Health Skills
6. Health Services

The checkpoints give the way to ensure that action is taken for each specific component and plans can be made and carried out.

School Health Policy

The school needs to develop a School Health Policy which shows the broad collective direction which will influence school action and resources for promoting health.

Components	Checkpoints
Policy that students must have healthy food.	Healthy food served or brought to school.
Smoke-free policy.	Smoking is forbidden on the school grounds.
First aid policy.	School has dressings and basic medications to provide primary first aid care.

School Physical Environment

Physical environment refers to the school buildings, grounds and equipment, including the basic needs for sanitation and availability of water.

Components	Checkpoints
Provision of a safe environment in the school.	Toilets, rubbish disposal, school cleaning.
Adequate water and sanitation.	Toilets, clean source of water.
Practices in protecting and enhancing the school environment.	Planting flowers and other plants; cutting grass; cleaning the school grounds.

School Social Environment

The social environment is the quality of the relationship between staff, students and the community. It means that the school needs to gain the support of the community and together work to ensure students leave school with healthy attitudes and values.

Components	Checkpoints
School supports mental health and social needs.	Encourage children at the school in having healthy attitudes and to not fight.
School promotes social events.	Celebrate National events such as Children's Day, National Health Week etc.

Community Relationship

This is the connection between school and students, family and local groups to support and promote Health and the way that teachers consult parents closely and explain school health promotion activities.

Components	Checkpoints
Family and community are involved in school activities.	Developments are taken to school meeting for decisions.
School celebrates local events.	Provincial anniversary, school break-up, etc.

Personal Health Skills

This refers to the formal and informal curriculum through which students gain knowledge, adopt healthy attitudes and understanding about health and make the student become more self reliant and responsible.

Components	Checkpoints
Curriculum provides health related issues.	Teaching of basic health education subjects: brushing teeth, washing hands after toilet, three balanced meals a day, etc.
Curriculum is designed to make students understand health and apply practices.	Mosquito nets, malaria, TB, personal hygiene.
Teachers are prepared to participate in health promotional activity.	Daily environment work, etc.

Health Services

This refers to local health services focused on children, adolescent health care and education through direct services provided to students with the support of the school.

Components	Checkpoints
Ensure basic routine service to school.	MCH program, E.P.I., ear care, vision screening, etc.
Health service contribution, school health programs.	VIP Project. malaria bed net, nutrition education, etc.