



Infectious Diseases & Procedures for Sick Educators/Children

Date adopted:

Date last reviewed:
January 2021

Reviewed by:
Board of Management.

Date of next review:
January 2023

Policy context:

This policy relates to:

National Quality Standards.	Standard 2.1 <i>Health</i> Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted. Element 2.1.2 <i>Health practices and procedures</i> Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
Legislation/Act.	Education and Care services National Regulations 2011 88 Infectious diseases Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulations 2011 (NSW)

Documents related to this policy

Related policies	Exclusion Policy Immunisation Policy Coronavirus Policy
Forms or other organisational documents	
References	Health & Safety In Children's Centre's Model Policies & Practices 2003 Staying Healthy in Child Care 5 th Ed 2012 Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, 2013. In helping children to take growing responsibility National Health Medical Research Centre 2013 www.health.gov.au

Policy Review:

Policy review frequency: This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Organisations Review Policy.	Responsibility for review: The Board of Management.
Where appropriate staff will be part of the review process.	
Documentation and communication: Policy documentation to be held in Policy and Procedure manuals. Where appropriate copies of new or reviewed policies will be given to staff, volunteers and families.	

Purpose

To minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, other children and Centre educators, by excluding children/staff who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend care, and facilitating the prevention and effective management of acute illness in children.

Rationale

Children might be brought to care with symptoms or signs of illness or while in care suddenly develop an illness that has not been diagnosed by a doctor, and that might be potentially infectious or life-threatening for the child. Symptoms may not clearly fit those listed in exclusion diseases making it difficult for the educators and Manager/ Supervisor to decide whether to accept or exclude the child from care. Many

illnesses while not fitting exclusion criteria can transmit disease to other children in care, and many non-exclusion diseases can make a child too ill to participate in normal care activities.

Procedure

To minimise the spread of a potentially infectious disease between children, other healthy children and Centre staff, and to minimise the detrimental impact on a sick child and the ability of the educators to safely supervise other children, the Centre should:

- Advise families to always inform you when their child has been sick at home prior to bringing their child to care so you can assess whether or not they are well enough to attend. Use this guide to assess whether the child is too sick to attend or needs to see a doctor, inform the family that the child cannot attend until they have recovered or have a certificate from their doctor (see Exclusions for Infectious Diseases and Acutely Ill Children - NHMRC Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion)
- Refer difficult or unresolved situations in relation to infectious diseases to the local Public Health Unit or Children's Services Advisor.
- Advise families to take a child with any of the illnesses or symptoms listed below or a child you believe to be acutely ill or infectious to their doctor. Child should be collected from the centre immediately.
- Exclude a child and advise the family to take the child to a doctor if you consider
 - the child has a fever that needs to be assessed by a doctor
 - the child has fever accompanied by abnormal behaviour or symptoms or signs that indicate a possible severe illness (such as lethargy, drowsiness, severe or prolonged coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, unusual irritability or crying),
 - the child will be unable to participate in the normal activities without possible detriment to their care and safety
 - the child will require extra supervision which may compromise the adequate supervision, care and safety of other children
 - the child needs to see a doctor for any reason
- Exclude a child or educator with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have a potentially serious illness, and advise the family to take the child to, or advise the staff member to go to, a doctor or hospital :
 - vomiting,
 - rash, especially if purplish or haemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal),
 - headache,
 - stiffness of the neck
 - aversion to light (photophobia),
 - severe pain anywhere (including toothache),
 - swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue, throat, or airways,
 - hives,
 - asthma, wheezing, or any difficulty breathing,
 - drowsiness or any unusual state of conscious or behaviour,
 - convulsion or epileptic seizure
- Exclude a child or educator with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an infectious illness, and advise the family to take the child, or advise the staff member to go to, a doctor or hospital :
 - diarrhoea,
 - generalised rash,
 - enlarged or tender lymph glands,
 - severe cough with fever,
 - head lice, nits, scabies, tinea, impetigo, or mouth ulcers not yet treated,

- mouth ulcers due to herpes simplex virus or coxsackie virus,
 - infection or yellow or green discharge of the eyes or ears,
 - excessive yellow or green discharge of the nose,
 - if any other infection is suspected
- Consider a child might be ill or is developing an illness, and advise the family to collect the child and recommend monitoring and medical investigation if you notice a child has any of the following symptoms:
 - persistent cough,
 - a fever (temperature over 38°C) or feels feverish to touch, (High fever over 38.5°C)
 - irritable, agitated, fretful, crying, not able to be comforted, behaving abnormally,
 - listless, quiet, inactive, has no interest in normal play activities,
 - not wanting to eat or drink,
 - an excessive number of wet or soiled nappies,
 - is not having the usual number of wet nappies (4- 6 a day),
 - an unusual colour or smell to the urine or faeces
 - Ensure that educators who have symptoms which may indicate a potential illness are not caring for children and advise them to seek medical advice.
 - Ensure that educators who have symptoms which may indicate a potential illness are replaced to provide appropriate supervision for children.

PLEASE NOTE - A child may be sent home if they are not coping with the group situation. This is due to the additional level of attention the staff may be required to offer one child which compromises our Duty of Care to all children.

Separation of sick children and well children

- After educator consultation, it may be decided that a child is unfit to attend the Centre.
- Parents, emergency contact will be telephoned in order to collect child.
- Until sick child/ren are collected they will be isolated from other children and kept indoors away from well children and offered quiet activities.
- At all times sick children will have access to a staff member for comfort and assistance