

Child Illness, injury/ Incident Policy

Guidelines

- The Educator will be provided with a wide range of pamphlets on health and illness issues.
- A list of communicable illnesses can be distributed to parents/caregivers to familiarise themselves with.
- Children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed on to children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them.
- Any child who has had a diarrhea or vomit is advised to stay away until they are well and until 48 hours after last episode of vomiting or diarrhea
- Any child who has had a contagious or communicable disease must be cleared by their doctor before returning to the Educator's premise.
- A particular area on educator's premise will be used to isolate children who become unwell whilst attending the service. Parents/caregivers will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible if this happens.
- Any child who is isolated will be kept comfortable and monitored by educator – no child will be left unsupervised at any time.
- The educator keeps a record of each child's medical practitioner and may use this information should medical advice be sought.
- Seek immediate help from a doctor and notify a parent or caregiver of what happened if a child who is badly hurt in an accident or becomes seriously ill.

Procedure

- ❖ In general, children and staff should stay away from an early childhood service when they are ill and causing concern or:
 - have no interest in activities or play
 - have little energy/want or need to sleep or rest for long periods
 - cry easily, are irritable, or in pain
 - constantly want to be held and comforted
 - have a fever
 - any child with diarrhea or vomiting should stay away until symptoms cease and they are well.
- ❖ If a child cannot go home immediately, keep them away from others, stay with them at all times, and give them plenty of clear fluids. Keep them cool if there is a fever and warm if they are cold.
- ❖ If a parent or caregiver is not available and the child seems to be becoming more ill, you will need to arrange for the child to be seen by a doctor.
- ❖ If you know what is causing the illness, make sure the child or staff member stays away for the recommended (or required) time.
- ❖ If you are not sure, but think the illness may be infectious, contact the public health service for information and advice.

- ❖ Contact the parents or caregivers of children who have low immunity, if the illness, injury and incident are infectious. They may want to keep their children at home until the risk is over.
- ❖ Wash children and wipe noses with disposable wipes or cloths that are used only once.
- ❖ Make sure that any sores and weeping cuts, spots and scratches are covered at all times in all environments and encourage children not to scratch or pick at them. If these wounds cannot be covered, the child or staff member should stay at home until they have healed.
- ❖ If other children develop the illness, take a careful look at the hygiene and cleaning routines used at your service:
- ❖ make sure everyone is washing their hands thoroughly before eating and after using the toilet
- ❖ check the nappy changing procedure and make sure that all staff are following it carefully
- ❖ look at the cleaning programme, including the cleaning of toys, bedding, and equipment, and improve the programme if necessary.
- ❖ Make sure that staff wear gloves and use diluted bleach to clean up spills, or blood, or other body fluids.
- ❖ Check that cups and eating utensils are washed thoroughly in hot water.
- ❖ Keep the immunisation register up to date.
- ❖ Contact your public health service for more information and advice.

Serious illness, injury or incident

- ❖ Get immediate help from a doctor and notify a parent or caregiver of what happened if a child who is badly hurt in an accident or becomes seriously ill
 - If the child needs to see the doctor or go to hospital, first contact a parent or caregiver and ask them to pick up the child immediately.
 - If a parent cannot be contacted, normally, there is other emergency contact person listed on the enrolment forms that the educator can contact.
 - If the illness is contagious, the child needs to be isolated to minimize the risk of spread to other children attending the service (refer to child isolation and caring policy)
 - There maybe costs associated with calling an ambulance, educators are advised to discuss this with parents to pre-plan for this contingency
- ❖ Educators must notify their relevant Visiting Teacher or the service provider when an incident occurs.
- ❖ Visiting Teachers are required to investigate incidents lodged by their educators to ensure local action is taken.

Recording Details

- ❖ all injuries, illnesses and incidents that occur at the service will be recorded on the illness, injury and incident record form. Records include:
 - the child's name;
 - the date, time, and description of the injury, illness or incident;
 - actions taken and by whom; and

- evidence that parents have been informed

Useful information on Caring for a child who is unwell

Children who become ill, injured while attending

A child who becomes ill while attending the service can react in a variety of ways – they can become confused, distressed, miserable, very quiet, or 'clingy'. It is also usually quite difficult to tell straight away what has caused the illness, and whether or not it is contagious to others.

The most important thing (apart from calling their parent or emergency contact to come and get them as soon as possible) is to make the sick or injured child comfortable and give them what they need, while also trying to ensure that other children are not further exposed (in case it is catching).

In some cases, the child may just want to be tucked into their usual bed. At other times, the educator might make a bed up on a couch for the child, and get the other children involved in an activity as far away as practical to manage the situation until the parent arrives.

- Contact the child's parent/caregiver
- Give plenty of clear fluids (if they have diarrhea give boiled water and Oral Rehydration Fluid, not sugary drinks such as fruit juice or fizzy drinks)
- Keep the child cool if they have a fever, keep them warm if they are cold

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Signs and Symptoms for seriously illness:

General

- Has been ill, or is ill and seems to be getting much worse
- Cannot be woken or is responding less than usual to what is going on around them
- Has glazed eyes and is not focusing on anything
- Seems more floppy, sleepy or less alert than usual

- Has a seizure or fit (unless they are already known to have fits or seizures and the parent/caregiver and the center have discussed what to do)
- Has an unusual cry that last for one hour or more
- Has a bulge or swelling on the groin that gets bigger when the child cries and does not get smaller or go away when crying stops
- Has a severe stomach pain that makes them bend over and scream or cry
- Has been badly injured
- Has stomach pain without vomiting or diarrhea after a fall, a blow or injury
- Has fallen and knocked their head and appears dazed, or was knocked out for any length of time

Temperature

- Feels too cold or too hot (a temperature of 38.3 degrees or more)

Circulation and skin colour

- Body is much paler than usual or suddenly turns blue or white
- Nails are blue or big toe is completely white and after squeezing the toe, normal colour takes more than three seconds to return.
- Has a rash which covers a large part of the body
- Has a blood-red or purple rash of tiny spots or bruises, but has not been injured
- Goes blue

Breathing

- Goes blue or stops breathing
- Breathes more quickly than normal or grunts when breathing
- Makes a wheezing noise when breathing out
- Breathes so fast and hard that they cannot speak, eat, cry or play
- Skin below the ribs sucks in as the child breathes

Vomiting and diarrhea

- Has vomiting at least half of the last three feeds
- Has green vomit
- Has faces that are black or bloody
- Has vomiting and diarrhea together, is refusing fluids and has passed less urine than usual

During the outbreak of parasites, fungal infections and communicable disease

- All children and adults who are ill shall keep at a safe distance from the rest of the children attending the service or excluded from the premise if possible.
- Immunisation is encouraged to protect them from serious illness.
- Educator and children should use thorough handwashing and hygienic nappy changing practices.
- Cleaning and disinfection frequency and the strength of the disinfectant may be increased.