

HEALTH & MEDICAL POLICY

PURPOSE:

To ensure the continued wellbeing of each child's health whilst at the centre and also the correct information on the detection of common childhood illnesses and up to date information on diagnosis of signs and symptoms of such. That the implementation of this policy is adhered to without bias and seeks to maintain the health benefits all children and staff of the centre

IMPLEMENTATION:

Maintenance of children's health depends on nutritious food, physical activity, cleanliness and sufficient sleep. Elder Street Early Childhood Centre is committed to not only ensuring the provision of these factors but also the continued maintenance of the best possible hygiene standards through:

- Thorough hand washing standards
- The institution of regular cleaning of surfaces and toys frequently touched and mouthed by children in care Careful handling of body fluids
- The maintenance of nappy changing and toileting procedure. Adherence to ANZFA Standard 3.22 (Food Safety Practices and general requirement) and standard 3.23 (Food Premises and Equipment)

It is a commonly stated misconception throughout society that long day care centre's are responsible for children's ill health. In deed the close proximity of children and staff in a childcare situation increases the risk of cross infection. However parents and the community must acknowledge that the responsibility for children's health and wellbeing should clearly be shared, because if a child who is unwell is not sent to day care the risk of cross infection would be greatly minimised. eg. if a child has a temperature which in most cases is an indicator of an imminent illness, they should not be given Paracetamol to mask the symptoms and brought to the centre. This will only prolong the inevitable, as the effect of the medication wears off and the temperature resurfaces, parents will be contacted to collect their child. In the meantime you may be sure that your child's illness will be communicated to many other children in the centre.

In the case of a temperature of 38 degrees or above is detected in any child at the centre, it is our policy that the child's parents/carer will be contacted and the child will need to be taken home.

ILLNESS AND ISOLATION

On enrolment at the Centre parents are required by our governing regulations to complete written authorisation for the Centre to seek and or/carry out urgent medical or hospital treatment if necessary.

In the event of an illness developing in a child whilst at care, but which does not require urgent medical attention, the Director in consultation with

staff, will decide whether it is necessary to contact the child's parents. Should it be considered so, the parent/s (or the alternative contact) will be informed immediately. If contacts cannot be reached quickly, the Director will decide on the most appropriate action to be taken (e.g. ambulance, Doctor). During this time the child will be kept under adult supervision until the child recovers or until a parent of the child or some other responsible person takes charge of the child.

In the event of a serious illness which is deemed to require urgent medical treatment, immediate steps will be taken to secure such treatment and that the child is returned as soon as practicably possible to the care of a parent. If such treatment is obtained the parent of the child is notified as soon as practically possible and informed of the suspected illness and the treatments arranged for the child. If parents have nominated a doctor to contact in this circumstance, all efforts will be made to seek their services specifically and where practicable.

Records of all child illnesses will be maintained at the centre. Parents will be informed of any illness. Further steps required of the service after the event of a serious illness are as listed below:

- Notification of event to the Director-General of the Department of Community Services
- Notification of the Licensee (if not already aware)
- Notification of Police (in the unlikely event of an illness causing death)

The Director, in consultation with the staff, retains the right to exclude children who are regarded as obviously unwell. The right also applies to children who are not fully recovered from a previous illness.

It should be noted children who have been diagnosed with an illness the treatment of which requires the prescription of Antibiotics should not return to childcare for at least 24 hours after the course of Antibiotic has commenced. E.g. Antibiotics first dose is on Tuesday 5 pm, they cannot return until Thursday.

Reviewed and Revised: 7th April 2005 – by M. Duffy-Fagan
22 February 2006 – by M. Duffy-Fagan
17 May 2006 by M Duffy-Fagan

Source: Staying Healthy in Child Care 3rd Edition – NSW Health Department
Children's Services Regulation 2004 – Policies Required under Children's Services Regulation 2004
Staying Healthy in Childcare 4th Edition, National Health and Medical Research Council
Supporting Policies – Exclusion Period Table
Infection Control



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EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

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NOTIFICATION OF REPORTABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Director General of Children's Services
NSW Public Health Authority

Please be notified that the above mentioned centre is reporting an outbreak of the following infectious illness first identified from (insert date)

NAME OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES WITHIN CENTRE:

of which (no. of children) were hospitalised at following hospitals:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Action taken at centre to date:

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We request assistance from the Public Health Authority with identification of the cause of the illness if possible and advice on appropriate control measures and/or assessment of existing control measures.

Yours faithfully

Melissa Duffy-Fagan
Director/Licensee