

Procedure for Sick Children/Staff and Management of Infectious Diseases

Rationale:

To ensure that ill health and infectious diseases are kept to a minimum.

Purpose:

To ensure that our preschool children and staff are not exposed to any unnecessary risks and to prevent the spread of sickness.

Guidelines:

Refer to Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases

A copy is displayed in the centre for parents' reference.

In the case of antibiotics, a child must have been on the antibiotic for 24 hours before returning to the centre.

In the case of diarrhea or vomiting, it is our policy that a child be clear for 48 hours before returning to the centre.

In the case of the common cold, staff will use their discretion in advising parents of their child's condition and whether it is appropriate for them to be cared for at preschool in relation to the child, the other children and the staff.

The immunisation register for children will be maintained

Preschool staff have the right to request that a child stays at home until well.

Parents must record and sign the dosage in the notebook enabling staff to administer medication.

Medication must be named and prescription medicine must have the correct child's name on the label.

In the event of accident or spillage or contact with any body fluids or discharge, refer to attached universal precautions.

In the case of sickness in the centre:

Every effort will be made to reassure and comfort the sick child. A staff member will remain with them in a separate area.

Parent/caregiver/emergency contact person will be contacted. In the event that these

people cannot be contacted, their family doctor will be phoned.

Appropriate cleaning methods will be followed.

Consultation may be required with the Health Department.

Record sickness in accident book.

Life Threatening Diseases ie HIV/AIDS

No child will be excluded from our centre.

Confidentiality will be maintained.

These children will be advised to stay away if there is a risk of infectious illness from/to others in the centre.

The universal precautions procedure will be observed.

Treatment of Headlice:

Parents/caregivers will be notified and informed of appropriate precautions/treatments.

Child/staff advised to stay away from the centre until the morning after their first treatment – it is not appropriate to exclude children/staff with headlice.

Preventative cleaning procedures to be followed – eg washing dress-ups, bedding, sun hats.

Medical Conditions Policy:

Child must have prescribed medicines at correct times and daily as instructed by doctor.

There must always be a parent or guardian available by telephone in case of an emergency.

If staff are at all in doubt regarding the medical condition of the child, they will call an ambulance at the cost of the parent/caregiver.

Any change in the medical condition or medicines must be advised to staff and staff (Head Teacher) must have the authority to phone the child's GP to discuss any concerns regarding the medical condition.