

MANAGING ILLNESS POLICY

This policy will be used in conjunction with Health, DECD and NQF regulations and guidelines

POLICY

This policy aims to ensure that all children and staff attending the centre are protected as much as practicable from disease and infection. It covers events such as sudden and temporary illness (see definition), temporary contagious condition as well as incidental soiling or "wetting" of clothing.

It considers the physical resources of the preschool (no "sick room" or bed, no access to warm water for cleaning children/clothing nor access to medication), training of staff and the lack of additional staff to manage or monitor children in times of illness. It also considers Child Protection issues around changing and cleaning of soiled children.

It does not apply to ongoing or permanent illnesses such as Asthma, incontinence, allergies, etc. these conditions should be discussed with the Director to organize an appropriate Health Management Plan.

DEFINITIONS

"illness": (for the purpose of this policy) refers to any temporary condition that affects a child's ability to participate in the preschool curriculum and/ or requires additional care or attention.

Illness includes:

- Influenza and influenza like illnesses
- Running noses where this is not able to be managed independently
- Earache, headache, stomach ache
- temperature
- Bladder infection or loose bowels
- Gastro-enteritis
- Head lice infestation – before successful treatment ie while live eggs and/or lice are present
- Vomiting, diarrhoea within the last 24 hours
- Any illness or temporary condition that requires the application or administration of any medication or ointment during the preschool day
- conjunctivitis
- When on a course of antibiotics for the first 24 hours of being medicated
- Any infectious disease – chicken pox, measles, etc.
- Any infectious skin complaint – school sores, ring worm hand foot and mouth etc
- any illness where the child is unable to fully participate in the curriculum
- excessive and/or continuous nose bleed ie a nose bleed that does not stop within a reasonable period of time
- or any illness or temporary condition where the child would require additional supervision or care, without this first being negotiated with the Director

It excludes:

- Asthma
- Eczema – or other ongoing skin complaints
- Allergies or sensitivities
- Any ongoing, long term or permanent condition that requires care

These exclusions and some other illnesses and or conditions will require Health Management Plans and/or Medication Permission forms to be completed by parent, director and Doctor to ensure the child's health can be managed appropriately by the staff in the preschool. It will sometimes also include negotiations with The Department and/or others to ensure an appropriate level of training and / or health care support is provided. Any medication required (negotiated through this process) will need to be kept on site, with appropriate permission forms.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL?

In the event of a child becoming ill at the preschool, staff will initially monitor the child's participation and behaviour. If concerned staff will contact the family using the emergency contacts provided on enrolment. As staff have FIRST AID training only, and do not have access to medical instruments (including thermometers) or medication, the decision to contact the family will be based on their observations and history of the child. It is therefore important that parent/carer inform staff of ANY (daily) medical concerns or medical history that may help staff. For example, if your child regularly suffers from vomiting, headache, hay fever, earache, nose bleeds etc this information could be discussed to determine the preferred course of action.

If staff are significantly concerned an AMBULANCE will be called. Any medical attention sought will be at the family's expense. All families should ensure appropriate insurance to cover any expense, including ambulance, has been considered. As with anything at preschool, any concerns or preferences should be discussed with the Director.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD SOILS AT PRESCHOOL?

In the event of a child soiling/wetting themselves at preschool, the child will be encouraged to change themselves (in a private area) and place soiled clothing in a plastic bag for collection by the parent/carer. If the child is particularly messy or distressed or upset, the parent will be contacted to collect the child. For Child Protection reasons children are not to be cleaned by staff, (although every support will be given with this task). Due to lack of facilities, clothing cannot be washed or cleaned prior to bagging, as this could pose a health risk (using sinks unsuitable for this purpose). Every effort will be made to inform parents of the incident. If soiling becomes a "regular" occurrence, a Continence Plan may need to be negotiated between staff and parents.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Inform staff of any illness or condition and provide any documentation as may be required.
- Consider the health of all and keep home any child with a contagious illness
- Begin training children in wiping own bottoms
- Let us know if you are concerned about your child's health at any time
- Ensure appropriate insurance to cover medical and ambulance has been considered.
- Discuss any medical concerns or preferences with the Director.
- Ensure emergency contact information is provided

STAFF

- Staff are not able to administer any medication without a health care / medication plan in place, and administration of any medications will be within the parameters of their training
- Staff are responsible for ensuring Child Protection Principles are considered when managing an incident that may require changing of a child.
- Staff will verse children in appropriate hygiene practices to help manage control of disease and illness – including washing hands before eating and after toileting, putting tissues in the bin etc.
- Staff will include "being healthy" as part of the curriculum
- Staff will make readily available hand sanitizer for use by staff, children and visitors (including parents) to the centre.

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