

Doolandella Early Learning Centre

33. Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Aim

- To reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases and to promote a safe environment for the children.
- To provide information to families to support them in appropriate management of containment and reduction of the spread of illness from contagious diseases.

Information

The following guidelines have been drawn up to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases and to promote a safer environment for the children. This is the responsibility of both parents and Educators.

Hygiene is an important factor in the maintenance of proper health standards. Our hygiene policy is available on request for your perusal.

Please consider your child when they are sick, as they want more attention, rest and quiet which is impossible to give to a child in a group situation in child care. Please consider the other children and the Educators who catch these illnesses. If all parents restrict attendance of their children when they are ill, this should mean all our children will be healthier, have fewer absences and thereby minimise disruption for parents.

Sooner or later all children get sick, so please be prepared and have a contingency plan should illness occur, e.g. arrange a standby care-giver.

The following symptoms in a child may alert you that they are unwell

- persistent coughing
- fever
- diarrhoea
- rashes
- frequent scratching
- vomiting
- breathing difficulties
- loss of appetite
- green mucous discharge from nose
- lethargy

Parents are requested to keep all immunisations up to date. Immunisation records, which are voluntary, will be maintained on each child at the Centre for the year. Immunisation information sheets are available to parents in the foyer.

Please inform the Centre if your child has any infectious illness so that we may watch for signs of illness in other children and alert other parents and Educators at risk. The principle of confidentiality will be upheld and disclosed on a "need to know" basis.

Doolandella Early Learning Centre

Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Ill Children

Ill children should not be at the centre. Where applicable, check temperature using centre thermometer. The sick child should be given the opportunity to rest and be observed by Educators. Check with the Nominated Supervisor about contacting parents.

A *Child Illness Report* **must** be filled out and signed by the parent or authorised person picking up the child. This requirement must be made clear to Educators supervising the child at departure time. All serious injuries i.e. those requiring medical attention, must be notified to Management.

If a child has to seek medical attention or an Infectious Disease is suspected, parents will be advised of the recommended action required. This is the recommendation taken from the "Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Settings" guidelines. These guidelines also include the exclusion period and whether any other contacts should be excluded. A Certificate of Clearance from your doctor may be required upon returning your child to the Centre for some illnesses.

If a contagious disease is confirmed, other parents in the group will be notified with a simple message and information sheets will be made available to parents. For infectious diseases where a vaccine is available, the parents of children who are not immunised will be advised of the situation together with the National Health & Medical Research Council recommendations.

Whenever possible, medication should be administered by the parent at home. However, if your child is required to have medication whilst at the Centre, the Medication Policy & Procedure should be read as it states the guidelines for Educators administering medication.

As soon as Educators have become aware that a child is sick, and suitable treatment administered, the parent will be contacted. It is therefore imperative that current contact numbers are always maintained. Depending on the child's condition, parents or their nominee may be asked to pick up the child as soon as possible.

In the case of illness, if a parent cannot be contacted, the Nominated Supervisor may seek medical attention using an ambulance service to transport the child with an accompanying Educator. The Centre does not accept responsibility for any costs associated with medical treatment of children.

Managing Contagious Infections and Illnesses

- Parents are asked to notify the Centre within 24 hours of their child being exposed/diagnosed to/with a contagious disease.
- Parents will be given information from Staying Healthy on the contagious disease.
- All rooms in the Centre will display notification of the particular contagious disease in the Centre.
- Where necessary, in accordance with government regulations, the Centre will notify the appropriate health authorities within 24 hours of the Centre's awareness of this situation.
- Parents are encouraged to discuss any issues in respect to individual children with their Doctor and the childcare Educators at the time of the infection/illness.

Doolandella Early Learning Centre

Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Exclusion Periods

- This Centre follows the minimum exclusion periods recommended by the NHMRC, listed in *Staying Healthy - Preventing infectious diseases in Department of Education and Training Early Childhood Education and Care services - 5th Edition 2012*
- Recommended exclusion periods are based on the time that a person with a specific disease or condition might be infectious to others.
- In some cases, a doctor's clearance may be recommended.
- Recommended non-exclusion means that there is no significant risk to others.
- Children who require 1:1 attention should be kept at home.

Condition	Cases	Contacts
Common Cold	Thick, green runny nose - home until resolved or appropriate treatment underway for 24 hours	Not Excluded
Fever	Home until fever has settled	Not Excluded
Sutures (Stitches)	An appropriate protective cover. If weeping or oozing, must not attend	Not Excluded
Hand, Foot & Mouth	Exclude until completely well	Not Excluded
Chicken Pox (Varicella and Herpes Zoster)	Exclude till fully recovered or at least 5 days after the eruption first appears. Note Some remaining scabs are not an indication for continued exclusion	Any child with an immune deficiency (e.g. Leukaemia or receiving chemotherapy) should be excluded for their own protection, otherwise not excluded
Conjunctivitis (Acute infections)	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased	Not Excluded
Diarrhoea (Rotavirus, Giardia, Salmonella, Campylobacter)	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	24hrs after the last diarrhoea
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after cessation of antibiotic treatment and the other 48 hours later	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority
Glandular Fever	Not Excluded	Not Excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until receipt of a medical certificate of recovery but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice.	Not Excluded
Hepatitis B	Not Excluded	Not Excluded
Hepatitis C	Not Excluded	Not Excluded
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	Exclusion not necessary unless the person has secondary infection requiring exclusion in its own right	Not Excluded
Impetigo (School Sores)	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced and sores on exposed surfaces are covered with a dressing	Not Excluded

Doolandella Early Learning Centre

Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Condition	Cases	Contacts
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not Excluded
Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days from the appearance of rash	Immunised contacts not excluded Non-immunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If non-immunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of their first contact with the index case, they may return to school
Meningitis (Bacterial)	Exclude until well	Not Excluded
Meningococcal	Exclude until well	Not Excluded
Mumps	Exclude for at least 9 days after onset of symptoms	Not Excluded
Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit on a medical certificate of recovery	Not Excluded
Ringworm, Scabies, Pediculosis (Lice), Trachoma	Exclude until the day after treatment has commenced	Not Excluded
Rubella (German Measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of rash	Not Excluded
Streptococcal	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the person feels well	Not Excluded
Tuberculosis	Exclude until production of medical certificate from appropriate health authority	Not Excluded
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Exclude until production of medical certificate from appropriate health authority	Not Excluded
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Exclude for five days after starting antibiotic treatment	Exclude unimmunised household contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have received 5 days of a 14 day course of antibiotics

Doolandella Early Learning Centre

Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Management of Unwell Children Procedure

Sick children, as defined below, cannot be admitted to the Centre to safeguard the health of other children and Educators.

Exclusion Criteria

A child who has any of the following symptoms cannot be admitted to the Centre:

- Ear, eye or discoloured nasal discharge
- An undiagnosed rash
- High temperature
- Lethargic and unresponsive due to side effects of medication
- Vomiting and /or loose bowel movements (exclude for 24 hours after last bout)
- Infectious sores or disease (children need a doctor's clearance)
- Any obvious signs of ill health

Onset of Illness at the Centre

If a child becomes unwell whilst at the Centre, Educators will assess the child's condition by:

- Taking the child's temperature.
- If a child has a temperature higher than 38C. The Centre Manager/Nominated Supervisor will be informed of the child's condition.
- The parent will be contacted and asked if they wish their child to have an initial dose of Paracetamol.
- The parent will be notified they will need to collect their child, due to ill health, and must comply with the Exclusion Criteria.
- Upon administering Paracetamol, or in preparation of parent pick up, the child will be made comfortable and monitored regularly until the parent arrives.

If parents and/or emergency contacts are unavailable, the Centre Manager/Nominated Supervisor will assess the situation and apply Duty of Care to facilitate the child's health, safety and wellbeing by contacting emergency services.

Where parents are asked to seek medical advice regarding their child's health, a clearance Certificate to pronounce the child fit for child care and that other children are not at risk of infection through exposure to this child is required before the child can return to the centre.



Doolandella Early Learning Centre

Illness & Infectious Disease Policy

Monitoring Child Procedure

Procedure

The Nominated Supervisor or Group Leader must contact the Parent when the following occur:

- Child has a temperature
- Child complains of a tummy ache or head ache
- Child states "I feel sick"
- Child vomits
- Child has loose bowel motions
- Child does not settle
- Child becomes injured or hurt
- Child refuses food & drink
- Document on Illness Form

References

- 5th Edition Staying Healthy Preventing infectious diseases in Department of Education and Training Early Childhood Education and Care services
- National Health and Medical Research Council
- NQS Quality Area 2.1.4
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2008 - Regulation 93(5)(b)1,2. 88, 168(2)(c)
- National Quality Framework - Standard 2.1

Considered and Accepted by

KAL Management		06 November 2018
Centre Representative		
Parent Representative		