**Illness and dealing with Infectious Disease Policy**

**Aim:**  To provide appropriate care for children and staff in the event of illness.

**Procedure:**

* On enrolment families are asked to list their contact details, along with emergency contact details in the event of an illness or emergency. If parents are aware they will be away from work or home for the day, an alternative number should be left with a staff member.
* Parents are asked to keep their mobile phones turned on while their child is in care.
* During the enrolment process permission is sought from parents for the centre to call for immediate medical attention, including ambulance, Doctor or Dentist, in the event of a medical emergency.
* Parents are notified on enrolment that if their child contracts an infectious disease, they will be excluded from the centre for a period prescribed by the NSW Ministry of Health (exclusion periods are attached to this policy).
* Parents are asked to notify the Centre within 24 hours if their child has been exposed to an infectious illness. This allows appropriate measures to be adopted by staff members to review the immunisation register, notifying the Health Department if required and to exclude children who are not up to date with their immunisations.
* If recommended by the NSW Department of Health, the centre may require a Doctor’s certificate before the child resumes care at the centre.
* Children who are regarded as unwell may be excluded from the centre at the Nominated Supervisors discretion. Consideration will be given to the child’s symptoms, their ability to cope in a group situation, and level of care required. In the Nominated Supervisors absence, decisions will be made by the Responsible Person on the premises.
* If a child is unwell while in care, staff will take the child’s temperature. If the temperature is above 38C, staff will follow the Temperature Management Policy. Children sent home with a high temperature will be excluded for a period of **24 hours after temperature has returned to normal without the aid of panadol or nurofen.**
* If a child has commenced antibiotics, they will be excluded from the centre for **24 hours** to ensure the medication has taken effect, and that there are no side effects.
* If the child requires medication while in care, staff will follow the Medication Policy.
* If a child vomits or has two bouts of diarrhoea while in care, staff will call the child’s parents to collect the child and **exclusion periods of 24 hours after the return of normal bowel movements or vomiting has ceased will apply.**
* If a parent is contacted to collect their child due to illness, staff will complete an Illness form. One copy will be placed on file, and one copy given to the parent.
* In the event of an outbreak of any Illness or infectious disease, information will be made available for parents along with notifications of the outbreak which will be displayed in the rooms and in the foyer.
* Extra hand washing and sanitising of toys and surfaces will be implemented across the Centre when infectious diseases are present.

Approved July 2007 – replaced Health Policy

Amended August 2009

Amended May 2012, Amended May 2014

Reviewed June 2016, Reviewed March 2017, April 2018

Sources: 1, 3 & 29