

Child Health Policy

Rationale

Parents and staff share the responsibility for creating a healthy centre environment. MIT Children's Education Centre wishes to make its children and adults safe from infection by clearly stating the circumstances where a child or staff member should be excluded from the centre to prevent the spread of disease or illnesses to others in the centre. Reasons for 'Exclusion' are supported by Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008.

Te Whāriki

Well-being – Goal 1: Children experience an environment where their health is promoted.

Policy

This policy aims to promote the health and well-being of children and staff by keeping them safe from illness and infection. This includes stopping the further spread of illness and infection through the centre. All permanent staff hold current First Aid certificates.

Procedures

- If parents have concerns that their child may be unwell this information should be shared with teachers on arrival at the centre. The parent must also inform teachers if they have administered pain relief to their child before coming to the centre. This enables teachers to be aware of any changes in behaviour, or signs of illness, and be able to respond to the child's needs promptly.
- A child suffering from any of the following symptoms will be required to leave the centre AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (see reasons to exclude). If a parent/caregiver is unavailable or unable to collect their child soon enough, the emergency contact person listed on the child's enrolment form may be contacted. In a high risk of spreading infection the child will be isolated from the other children until collected. The sick child will be made as comfortable as possible, with high temperatures managed by cooling the child (removing outer layers of clothes, tepid sponge bath and regular temperature checks every 10 minutes).
- If staff become concerned at any time for the child's well-being and we are unable to make contact with parents/caregivers or emergency contacts, an ambulance will be called. Parents will be responsible for any costs incurred.
- Resources and centre furniture and fixtures are to be sanitised in the event of an infectious disease notification in the centre.
- Parents and caregivers will be notified in the event of an infectious disease being present in the centre.
- A child prescribed antibiotics for any illness should not return until at least 24 hours after treatment has started or at the centre manager's discretion.
- A medical clearance must be presented to staff/management before the return of a child or staff member who has been absent with an infectious or communicable disease. Management reserves the right to request a second opinion from a Medical professional.

Reasons to exclude a child from the centre

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in centre life and programme learning experiences.
- The illness results in a greater care needed than MIT Children's Education Centre can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- The child has any of the following conditions: fever, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, persistent coughing causing distress, persistent coloured discharge from the nose, or other signs of possible illness.
- No child with diarrhoea or vomiting should attend the centre. Children must be **symptom free for 48 hours** and in the case of diarrhoea have at least one normal bowel motion before returning to the centre.
- If a child's temperature is 38 degrees Celsius and over.
- Rash with fever or behaviour change - until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Conjunctivitis – until the child has been treated for at least 24 hours, there is no discharge coming from the eyes and until the eye is no longer pink.
- Tuberculosis – until the child's physician or Public Health Service advises the child is not infectious.
- Impetigo – until 24 hours after treatment is started and all sores are covered.
- Strep throat – until 24 hours after treatment has started and until 24 hours after fever stops.
- Head lice and/or nits – until treatment has commenced and hair has been combed thoroughly. Public Health recommends daily combing and removal of eggs for 3 weeks to clear the hair of nits and/or lice.
- Thread worm – until treatment is completed.
- Scabies – until after treatment has been completed.
- Chicken pox – until at least seven days after onset of disease and if all the lesions have dried and are crusted over.
- Whooping cough – until 21 days from the onset of coughing or five days of antibiotics (the usual course of treatment is 14 days).
- Measles – until four days from the onset of rash.
- Mumps – until nine days after swelling develops.
- Rubella – until seven days from appearance of rash.
- For some vaccine preventable diseases there is a requirement to exclude unimmunised children who have had contact with a case of the disease. This applies to Measles, Diphtheria and Whooping cough, and would be arranged on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.

If a child suffers from **Epilepsy, Asthma, Diabetes, Allergic Reaction or other medical conditions** an *Individual Health Plan* needs to be furnished by the parents or caregivers. The plan is to include appropriate actions for staff to take and training on how to administer medication.

Links to:

- [Medicine Policy](#)

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Signed by: