



LOCK AREA SCHOOL

WITH HEAD, HEART AND HAND

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Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Early Years Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy

Rationale

The Centre will plan and respond effectively to minimise children's exposure to infectious diseases. Ensuring the health and safety of children and staff, and supporting children's ongoing wellbeing, is a core focus of the delivery of our Early Years education. Educators need to be aware of the likelihood of young children being exposed to an infectious disease whilst in care. Maintaining hygiene practises within the service and teaching young children about health and hygiene will assist in the prevention of infectious diseases. Providing families with timely and current information will further support this process.

Aims

Children's exposure to infectious diseases will be minimised by:

- Our service following all recommended guidelines from relevant authorities regarding the prevention of infectious diseases.
- Promotion of practices that reduce the transmission of infection.
- The exclusion of sick children and staff.
- Service support for child immunisation.
- Implementation of effective hand washing procedures.

Procedure

- Children are not to attend the Early Years Centre when unwell, e.g. cold, raised temperature, gastro, pale, lethargic or coughing.
- Parents are to notify the Early Years Centre if their child is to be absent.
- Parents are to keep their child at home until well or a Doctor has given the all clear to attend the Early Years Centre. Please keep your child away for at least 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhoea episodes to prevent the spread of infection.
- When a child shows symptoms of illness whilst at the Early Years Centre, staff will care for them and contact the parent or emergency contact number.
- If there is an infectious disease at the Early Years Centre, the staff will ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the service.
- Infectious disease notification signs are located in the First Aid folder in the kitchen and will be displayed to notify the Early Years Centre community.

The Early Years Centre will:

- Ensure that all information regarding the prevention of infectious diseases is sourced from a recognised health authority, such as *Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (5th edition)*.
- Implement the recommendations from *Staying Healthy in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (5th edition)* to prevent the spread of infectious diseases at the service.
- Ensure that children are reasonably protected from harm by working with the Nominated Supervisor and Educators on developing, implementing and reviewing policies that will guide health and safety procedures within the service.
- Collect, maintain and appropriately store the required enrolment documents and information of children in the service.
- Develop procedures for:
 - Maintaining a hygienic environment.

- Providing families with relevant infectious diseases, health and hygiene information.
- Guiding children's understanding of health and hygiene throughout the daily program.
- Ensuring staff are aware of relevant immunisation guidelines for children and themselves.
- Maintaining relevant records regarding the current status of the immunisation of the children at the service, as well as any relevant medical conditions of children.
- Develop an enrolment procedure that captures all required information regarding the children's immunisation status, and any medical conditions.
- Provide relevant sourced materials to families about:
 - Exclusion guidelines for children that are not immunised or have not yet received all of their immunisations in the event of an infectious illness at the service, upon induction at the service.
 - Advice and information regarding any infectious diseases in general, and information regarding any specific infectious disease that are suspected/present in the service.
 - Information on infectious diseases as soon as practicable after the occurrence of the infectious disease.
- Provide information to families as soon as practical of the occurrence of an infectious disease that describes the:
 - Nature of the illness.
 - Incubation period.
 - Infectious and exclusion periods.
- Source information from a reliable sources such as *Staying Health in Child Care – Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care (5th edition)*, National Health and Medical Research Council.
- Ensure that an 'Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness' record is completed as soon as practical, or no later than 24 hours of the illness occurring.
- Ensure that all educators are aware of individual children's circumstances i.e. read children's enrolment form before children commence at the service.
- Maintain confidentiality with regards to children's individual medical circumstances to safeguard children and families personal information.
- Provide regular reminders to families to keep information in children's enrolment records up to date (immunisation), ensuring that this occurs as required.
- Advise staff of the recommended immunisations for people working with children as per *Immunisation Handbook (2019)* (www.immunisationhandbook@health.gov.au).
- Provide opportunities for educators to source relevant up to date information on the prevention of infectious diseases, and maintain health and hygiene from trusted sources.
- Ensure opportunities for educators and families to be involved in the review of the policies and procedures regarding children's health and safety.
- Inform and implement the advice of the Health Department, or local health regarding infectious diseases as required.

Educators will:

- Ensure that any children that are suspected of having an infectious disease are responded to and their health and emotional needs are supported at all times.
- Implement appropriate health and safety procedures when tending to ill children.
- Ensure that families are aware of the need to collect their children as soon as practical to ensure the child's comfort.
- Advise families that they will need to alert the service if their child is diagnosed with an infectious disease.
- Maintain their own immunisation status.
- Provide varied opportunities for children to engage in hygiene practices, including routine opportunities and intentional practice.
- Take into consideration the grouping of children to reduce the risk of acquiring an infectious disease when planning the routine/program of the day.

- Implement the service's health and hygiene policies including:
 - Hand washing – washing and drying thoroughly, and remembering to include babies when hand washing.
 - Routine and daily cleaning of the service.
 - Nappy changing procedures (when necessary).
 - Wearing gloves (particularly when in direct contact with bodily fluids).
 - Proper handling and preparation of food.
- Provide opportunities for staff, children and families to have access to health professionals by organising visits/guest speakers to attend the service to ensure that practices in place at the service are correct.
- Maintain currency with regard to Health and Safety by attending appropriate professional development opportunities.

Families will:

- Advise the service of their child's immunisation status, and provide written documentation for this for the service to copy and keep with the child's enrolment records.
- Advise the service when their child's immunisation/medical condition is updated and provide this information to the service to ensure that enrolment records are up to date.
- Have the opportunity to provide input into the review and effectiveness of policies and procedures of the service via various methods.

Evaluation

Infection control is effectively managed at the service to ensure children remain health and transmission of infectious diseases are minimised.