



## ILLNESS AND INJURY

Rationale/Intent: To uphold the health and safety of children and teachers by minimising accidents and illness/cross infection within the centre environment.

Responsibility: All staff to practice and implement policy.

Current Requirement of: Reg 46 ECE Regs 2008, HS26 and the Health (Infectious & Notifiable Diseases) Regs 1966.

### Key Points

- Whenever a child shows signs of a possible contagious/infectious illness we will isolate them from the rest of the group to prevent cross infection. The isolation area will be the office area (or if unavailable, another area in the centre cordoned off from other children) and a waterproof/washable mattress will be available for them to rest on. The 'Sickness Kit' (includes vomit bucket, disposable cloths, Supergel absorber etc) stored on top of the cupboard in the upstairs bathroom and downstairs nappy change area) will be used for any unwell children
- Parents/caregivers will be notified and are expected to collect their child without delay. Sick children need home care and it is the parents' responsibility to make all arrangements for alternative care if they cannot take leave from their work during their child's illness.
- Children with infectious diseases including but not limited to - Measles, Hand, Foot and Mouth, Chicken Pox, Conjunctivitis, Rotavirus, Norovirus etc cannot return to the centre until they have completely recovered. If children return and staff are concerned that a child has not recovered the parents will be notified and asked to obtain a doctors clearance certificate. Ministry of Health Guidelines on infectious diseases will be followed if in doubt. These are on display throughout the centre.
- Head injuries, excessive bleeding, heavy falls etc need to be reported to head teacher/management and monitored closely. Parents will be notified immediately if there is any concern that professional medical treatment may be required but in an emergency situation we will always call an ambulance first
- If an accident occurs while the child is in care, appropriate first aid will be given and the staff member who witnessed the accident is to write full details in the Accident Register (located in the foyer). Staff are to check this register daily and ensure parents are notified when they collect their child. There is to be a first aid trained staff member in the centre at all times.
- **Playhouse has strict exclusion periods which must be adhered to at all times – there are no exceptions! If a child has any of the following: high temperature, severe coughing, an unexplained rash or weeping eyes we require a stand down period of 24 hours from last incidence before the child can return to the centre. If a child has any episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea caused by illness/virus they are excluded from the centre for 48 hours after all symptoms have stopped. These measures have been introduced by the Auckland Regional Public Health Service to stop the spread of infectious illnesses in the centre environment. Staff will also remind parents of these requirements.**
- Acceptance of any child into care who may be unwell is only at the discretion of Centre Management. Any child who displays symptoms such as no interest in activities or play, has little energy, is irritable and/or wanting to constantly sleep, will be assessed by staff and may be considered not well enough to be at the centre. Be aware that teachers will only contact parents when they deem it necessary and it is in the best interest of the child. We expect full cooperation from our families during these times.
- First Aid Trained/Permanent Staff Members are to administer any medication. Prescription medicine will only be given if it is prescribed in the name of the child that it is to be given to and the medicine must have a current date. Staff will only administer the dosage stated on the prescription and parents must complete and sign the medicine form located in the entry foyer each day before handing medicine to staff to store appropriately. Staff will sign the form when the medicine is administered and will make a note of the time and dose. Non-prescription medication is also to be noted on the medicine form along with dosage/application. No medication is to be given without the prior approval of parent/caregiver
- Paracetamol / Ibuprofen will only be given at the discretion of management after discussing and agreeing on individual circumstances with parents/caregivers and must be current dated and doctor prescribed for purpose. Pain relief for teething will be decided on a case by case basis. Pamol and other such medication will not be administered for the purpose of disguising a fever, as a child with a fever is not well enough to be at the centre.

October 2020

Date to be reviewed: October 2021