

DUNCRAIG EARLY LEARNING CENTRE INC.

MANAGEMENT OF UNWELL CHILDREN POLICY

DEFINITION

An unwell child is one who demonstrates signs or symptoms of an illness or infectious disease.

POLICY

When a child demonstrates signs and/or symptoms of being unwell at the Centre:

1. Educators are to inform the Director if a child at the Centre becomes ill or develops a temperature of less than 36.5C or greater than 38C.
2. The Director or Team Leader caring for the child is to contact the parent (or emergency contact if the parent is unavailable) and ask them to collect their child as soon as practicable or within the hour following notice, (whichever comes first).
3. A child with a temperature outside the normal range will be separated from other children (where possible) until the parent arrives. When a child has a temperature, educators will encourage the child to drink fluids and monitor them.
4. In the event that neither parent nor emergency contacts can be reached within half an hour, when necessary, Health Direct will be called and their advice will be followed. If urgent medical attention is required, the Director or Team Leader has the authority to call an ambulance in the case of an emergency. Parents will meet any expenses incurred. (Parent Agreement upon enrolment).
5. Educators are to fill out an illness report as soon as is practicable.

Exclusion from Centre due to a child demonstrating signs or symptoms of being unwell

6. It is the expectation of the Centre that all parents are honest and upfront regarding their child's wellbeing and whether the child is fit to attend the Centre.
7. There are certain conditions that will exclude children from the Centre. (Refer to Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th Edition 2012.) Recommended minimum exclusion periods are found on shelving in the office. A clearance certificate will be requested on a case by case situation. Any rash will require a clearance medical certificate obtained no longer than 24 hours before the child returns to DELC.
8. If the Centre has been advised that a child is on prescribed medication for infectious and transmissible cases (i.e. Chicken pox, impetigo, hand, foot and mouth etc) the family will be given a DELC Medical Clearance form to be filled out by the Doctor and /or a clearance certificate from a medical practitioner before the child returns to the Centre.
9. Antibiotics that are administered for non-contagious conditions such as ear infections will require a 24-hour minimum on the medication prior to returning to DELC. Any antibiotics for conditions such as lower respiratory conditions or school sores and impetigo will require a 48-hour minimum on the medication prior to returning to DELC.
10. Upon request by the Director or Team Leader, a parent will be required to arrange for a DELC clearance certificate to be completed by a medical practitioner and then presented to the Director, obtained no longer than 24 hours before the child can return to the Centre.
11. The Centre will not accept children back into the Centre until 24 hours after their last incident of vomiting or diarrhoea. If a child is sent home with diarrhoea or vomiting, educators will endeavour to give parents a verbal reminder in regard to the requirement to be away from the Centre for 24 hours before returning to care.
12. If a child wakes up with a temperature or ailment overnight, and is medicated with over the counter medications such as Paracetamol, Ibuprofen and like medicines from 12 am onwards prior to coming to the Centre, the child must not attend the Centre that day. The Director's discretion will be used when determining whether to allow the administration of pain relief for non-contagious incidents without written instructions by a RMP. E.g. A broken arm

13. Children with a continuous discharge from their nose, or a rumbling cough and who also appear unwell will be asked to obtain a clearance certificate from a medical practitioner before being admitted to care at the Centre (Clear discharge from noses is just as contagious as green discharge).
14. Children with a discharge from their nose and a temperature outside the normal range, or appear unwell, will be sent home during the day from care.
15. The Director will aim to ensure that an enrolled child or other person is excluded from the Centre if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the person is suffering from a communicable disease.
16. For the purposes of excluding a person from the Centre, the Director may:
 - refuse admittance to the Centre.
 - in the case of a child already at the Centre, request a parent (or emergency contact) of the child to take the child from the Centre as soon as practicable, or within the hour following notice, whichever comes first; or
 - In the case of an adult, request the person to leave the Centre immediately.
17. The Director's discretion will be used when determining exclusion, including overriding medical clearance certificates.
18. The Director will aim to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to notify educators, parents of enrolled children and visitors in regard to the exclusion of a person pursuant to clauses 15 and 16 above.
19. Information regarding children's ongoing medical conditions will be taken on excursions.

Covid precautions effective from March 2022:

If a child is displaying two or more symptoms that resemble Covid symptoms at the Centre, they will be excluded from the Centre and required to return a negative RAT or PCR test before returning to daycare.

Covid symptoms in WA are defined as:

- A fever of 38°C or above OR fever in the last few days (for example, night sweats or chills), without a known source
- Acute respiratory symptoms (for example, coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose)
- Gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhoea or vomiting

Information and reporting of infectious conditions

20. Management is familiar with its legal responsibilities to report a confirmed outbreak of specified diseases and the Centre will advise the West Australian Health Department of any incidence of confirmed notifiable disease. As soon as possible following a case (or suspected case) of an infectious condition of an enrolled child at the Centre, the Director will inform parents of such case by signs being placed in the most visible positions at the Centre. The signs must include symptoms of the condition, exclusion times and whether a medical clearance certificate is needed before returning to the Centre. The identity of affected child/children will not be revealed and will remain confidential.
21. Parents are requested to inform the Centre immediately of an infectious condition, so that the Centre can minimise the spread of illness where possible.

Duncraig Early Learning Centre endeavours to ensure that all policies and practices are inclusive

To be read in conjunction with the Medication Policy

Reference: Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th Edition 2012

REVIEWED: March 2022

NEXT REVIEW: March 2023

NAME Jeffrey Charles Allen POSITION Chairperson

SIGNED DocuSigned by:
Jeffrey Charles Allen 4/14/2022
D52EE5BB9861451...

NAME Rebecca Ridley POSITION Director

SIGNED R. Ridley

