



NARNIA EARLY LEARNING

ACN 002 919 584

(Administered by St. Philip's Christian Education Foundation Ltd.)

MANAGEMENT OF SICK CHILDREN GUIDELINES

Aim:

To ensure that sick children are cared for swiftly and that appropriate action is taken to prevent the spread of infection and maintain a healthy environment.

Explanation:

The major elements of an effective infection control policy include the maintenance of high standards of hygiene and health practices. For this reason, as well as the extra demands sick children place on staff resources, the service cannot provide care for ill children.

Staff decisions will be guided by the Staying Healthy in Childcare (version 5). Our focus is to protect the health of all children and staff within the service.

Implementation:

- **If a child exhibits signs or symptoms of illness, staff will:**
 - a) Inform the Responsible Person who will contact the child's parent. Where the parent cannot be contacted emergency contacts will be asked to collect the child. Pick up of the child needs to be prioritised as a matter of urgency.
 - b) Comfort the sick child. Separate the sick child (in the room) from other children and supervise until the child is collected.
 - c) Educator to monitor and document the child's symptoms and complete illness report.
 - d) Take the child's temperature and act to bring down fever as necessary.
 - e) The person collecting the child is to sign the completed illness record and a copy provided to the carer if requested.
 - f) The Responsible Person will inform the person collecting the child of any current illnesses in the service and the conditions of re-entry to the service.
- Sick children will not be readmitted to the service until fully recovered or no longer infectious. Medical clearance may be requested if the child is diagnosed with a contagious disease. (The centre will follow the *Staying Healthy in Childcare* guidelines).
- When a child returns to the service after being sick the parent will be encouraged to take the child's temperature before leaving home. The centre will take the child's temperature when arriving at the centre. If over 38 degrees the child will not be able to attend.
- When a child arrives at the service and, in the opinion of the Responsible Person is too sick to be in attendance. This will be discussed with the parent and may result in the parent having to take the child home.
- The service will retain the right to exclude any child who is regarded by the Responsible Person to be a health risk to other children or adults attending the service.
- If a child becomes seriously ill an ambulance will be called in addition to the child's parents or guardians.
- A child will be excluded from attending for 24 hours in the case of vomiting or diarrhoea (see further information below for outbreak).
- Narnia has adopted the Staying Healthy in Childcare – Preventing infectious diseases. Families will be provided with up to date information regarding specific illnesses and ways to maximise the spread of infection within the service.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO BE ALERT FOR:

The following are symptoms, which may suggest a child is ill.

General

Some examples include: the child may cry easily or is not comforted easily; be fretful and listless; lose interest in participating or be unusually quiet; not want to eat; be unusually irritable; feel hot to touch; look tired and flushed; feel cold or look pale; need one to one attention; exhibit any signs or symptoms listed by the NSW Department of Health Guidelines for Exclusion.

Fever

Child to be sent home if fever reaches 38 degrees or higher. If a child's temperature is within the average range (average being between 36.5-38 degrees body temperature), but is accompanied by other symptoms such as vomiting, sore throat, diarrhoea, headache, stiff neck, undiagnosed rash or convulsion, parents will be contacted to take their child home.

Respiratory symptoms

Difficult or rapid breathing, or severe coughing, high pitched croup or whooping sound, inability to lie comfortably due to continuous coughing or wheezing.

Covid-19

See Covid Policy

Diarrhea/Vomiting

An increased number of abnormally loose stools in the previous 24 hours. Associated symptoms include fever, abdominal pain or vomiting. (Any episodes of vomiting within the previous 24 hours.) If we are deemed to have an 'outbreak of gastro', there will be a 48-hour exclusion period. In some circumstances, a doctor's certificate may be required.

Outbreak- A gastro outbreak occurs when 2 or more children or staff have sudden onset of vomiting or diarrhea in a 2-day period. A report needs to be made to Public Health in this instance. Staff will consult with and be guided by the Public Health Unit. Staff will be directed of procedure to follow by the public health unit. Please implement the advice and guidance from the NSW Government Gastro pack. If a report is made to the Public Health Unit then a notification to ACECQA must also be made.

Eye/nose discharge

Thick mucous draining from the ear or nose, or red, swollen and discharging eyes.

Sore throat

Especially with swollen glands in neck, or fever.

Skin problem

Rash undiagnosed, or contagious. Infected sores that cannot be covered. Persistent itching.

Unusual Colour / Appearance / Behaviour

Eyes or skin:	yellow (jaundice)
Stool:	grey or white
Urine:	dark tea-coloured

The child looks pale, tired, confused or lacks appetite, irritable or difficult to awaken.

Fit / Convulsion / Reaction to medication

Seek medical attention immediately.

This policy links to the following:

National Quality Standards: 2.1.4, 2.1.2

Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011: 85, 86, 87, 88