



Illness Policy

Port Lincoln Children's Centre aims to provide a safe and healthy environment for children and staff. By excluding one ill person, you can protect many other people from becoming ill. While we understand it can be difficult to know when a child is sick it is important that children and staff who are ill are kept away from the centre for the recommended period.

Educators and responsibilities :

- Adhere to Hygiene and Infectious Control Policy
- Inform the Centre as soon as possible if they are unwell

Children arriving at the centre who are unwell

The Centre will not accept a child into care if they:

- Are unwell and unable to participate in normal activities or require additional attention
- Have had a temperature, vomiting and /or diarrhoea in the last 24hrs
- Have symptoms of a contagious illness, disease or rash

Children who become ill at the Centre.

Children may become unwell throughout the day. Sick children are unable to remain at the Centre for their own wellbeing and for the safety of other children. Our staff are not medical practitioners and are not able to diagnose whether or not a child has an infectious illness. However if an infectious illness is suspected we may ask the family to collect their child from care as soon as possible.

If a child becomes ill Educators will:

- Be responsive of symptoms of illness (especially in those who are unable to indicate that they are unwell)
- Monitor and document the child's symptoms on an Incident/ Illness form
- Contact families/guardians/Emergency contacts to decide if it is appropriate for the child to remain at the Centre.
- Place child in a quiet area where they can rest whilst being supervised
- Complete the incident/accident report ensuring it is signed by the person collecting the child.

A child cannot remain at the Centre if s/he:

- has passed two runny stools and or vomited whilst at the Centre. They will be sent home and may only return 24 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea/vomiting;
- Has a temperature of over 38°C;
- Is unwell to the extent they are unable to actively participate in the program or require constant one to one attention.

Excluding children from the Centre

1. When a child has been diagnosed with an illness or infectious disease, the Centre will refer to Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition to find the recommended exclusion period and also request a medical clearance from the GP stating the child is cleared to return to the Centre.
2. When an infectious disease has been diagnosed the Centre will display appropriate documentation and alerts for the families including information on the illness/disease, symptoms, infectious period and exclusion period. (this information can be obtained from Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition)
3. Children that have had diarrhoea and vomiting will be asked to stay away from the Centre for 24 hours after the symptoms have ceased to reduce the transmission.
4. Children who are not fully immunized will be excluded if an infectious disease is reported within the Centre community and the child is deemed to be in danger of contracting the illness.

Family responsibilities: In order to prevent the spread of disease, families are required to monitor their child's health, in particular:

- Runny green mucus from the nose,
- High temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Red, swollen or has a discharge from the eyes,
- Vomiting
- Irritability, unusually tired or lethargic

Returning after Illness

- Children may return to the Centre once they are well. If a child has vomiting or diarrhea they may return to the Centre 24 hours after their last loose bowel motion or episode of vomiting.
- If they have an infectious disease a medical certificate to confirm the child is well enough to return may be requested

Reporting Outbreaks

All notifiable diseases will be reported to the local Public Health officer including vaccine preventable diseases

Returning after surgery

Children who have undergone any type of surgery will need to take advice from their doctor/surgeon as to when it is appropriate to return to care.

Children will require a medical clearance stating the child is fit and able to return to the Centre and participate in daily activities.

This policy should be used in conjunction with the following Centre policies and procedures: Hygiene Practices and Infectious Control; Protecting children against vaccine preventable diseases; Administration of Medication and Medical conditions

National Quality Standards

QA 2 Standard 2.1.2 Effective Illness and Injury Management and Hygiene practices are Promoted and Implemented

National Regulations; 85,86,87,88

Sources:

Staying Healthy in childcare 5th edition

S.A Health

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