

INFECTIOUS ILLNESS

RATIONALE

To prevent the transmission of infection from one person (child or Educator) to another.

PROCEDURES

Educators must not care for children while they have an infectious illness, and they must take reasonable steps to ensure that children in their care do not come into contact with people suffering or suspected of suffering any infectious illness.

Parents will be requested not to bring their children to their Educator if they have an infectious illness. Out-of-school care must not be provided to children who are absent from school due to illness. If a child becomes ill whilst in the Educators care the child will be isolated and all practicable steps will be taken to locate their parents and they will be asked to collect their child.

Infectious Illness which require exclusion are:

- Campylobacter
- Chicken Pox
- Conjunctivitis
- Diarrhoea and Vomiting
- Giardia
- Hand, Foot and Mouth
- Hepatitis A, B or C
- Measles
- Meningitis
- Mumps
- Ringworm / Tinea
- Rubella
- Salmonella
- Scabies
- School Sores
- Fifth Disease
- Streptococcal Sore Throat
- Whooping Cough

Each of these illnesses has a unique exclusion time period. Children/Educators can resume homecare once the exclusion period has been met or on the advice of a doctor.

Educators each have a copy of the 'Infectious diseases' handout (published by the Ministry of Health) including exclusion times.

When should children stay away from the service?

In general children should stay away from an early childhood service when they are ill and

causing concern or:

have no interest in activities or play

have little energy - want or need to sleep or rest for long periods

cry easily, are irritable or in pain

constantly want to be held and comforted, are 'clingy'

have a fever

have diarrhoea or vomiting.

Notification to your Co-ordinator

If any child or educator has is diagnosed with a notifiable disease please contact your co-ordinator immediately.

Where there is a serious injury or illness or incident involving a child in Sprouts care, the Educator is to notify their co-ordinator as soon as possible to inform them of the situation, so that they can advise you and establish that you have followed the correct procedures.

Incident notification to the Ministry of Education

Where there is a serious injury or illness or incident involving a child while at the service that is required to be notified to a specified agency, the service provider must also notify the Ministry of Education at the same time.

REFERENCES

Nga Kupu Oranga - Healthy Messages, Ministry of Health.

Guidelines for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Centres, Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008

(Reg46/HS23)(Reg57/HS33)

Infectious Diseases – Ministry of Health – Revised May 2007 – Code 1215