

# Medical Conditions Policy and Managing Illness Responsibilities

**Nuriootpa Community Children's Centre is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for its educators, children and visitors. We are committed to providing quality teaching in a supportive and caring learning environment.**

This policy aims to ensure that all children and educators attending the centre are protected as much as practicable from disease and infection. It covers events such as sudden and temporary illness (see definition), temporary contagious infection as well as incidental toileting accidents. It considers the physical resources of the Centre (no "sick room" or bed, no access to medication), training of educators and the availability of additional educators to manage or monitor children in times of illness. It also considers Child Protection issues around changing and cleaning of soiled children.

It does not apply to ongoing or permanent illnesses such as Asthma, incontinence, allergies, etc. Any long term or permanent illness should be discussed with the Director to organize an appropriate Health Management Plan to support the child's attendance at the Centre.

## Definitions

*"illness": (for the purpose of this policy) refers to any **temporary** condition that affects a child's ability to participate in the Centre curriculum and/or requires additional care or attention.*

Illness includes:

- Influenza and influenza like illnesses
- Earache, headache, stomach ache
- Temperature
- Bladder infection or loose bowels
- Gastro-enteritis
- Head lice infestation – before successful treatment ie while live eggs and/or lice are present
- Vomiting, diarrhoea within the last 24 hours
- Any illness or condition that requires the temporary application or administration of any medication or ointment whilst your child is at the Centre
- Conjunctivitis
- When on a course of antibiotics for the first 24 hours of being medicated
- Any infectious disease – chicken pox, measles, etc.
- Any infectious skin complaint – school sores, ring worm etc
- Any illness where the child is unable to fully participate in the curriculum
- Excessive and/or continuous nose bleed ie a nose bleed that does not stop within a reasonable period of time
- Any injury where the child would require additional supervision or care, without this first being negotiated with the Director

It excludes:

- Asthma
- Eczema – or other ongoing skin complaints
- Allergies or sensitivities
- Any ongoing, long term or permanent condition that requires care

These exclusions and some others will require Health Management Plans and/or Medication Permission forms to be completed by Director and Doctor to ensure the child's health can be managed appropriately by the staff in the Centre. It will sometimes also include negotiations with The Department to ensure an appropriate level of health care is provided. Any medication required (negotiated through this process) will need to be kept on site, with appropriate permission forms.

### **Process**

In the event of a child becoming ill at the Centre, educators will initially monitor the child's participation and behaviour. If educators are concerned that the child is running a temperature, this will be assessed with a non-invasive thermometer. All observations and actions will be documented onto an 'Accident/Injury/Illness' form. If educator concern is ongoing contact will be made to the family immediately using the emergency contacts provided on enrolment.

As educators are unable to diagnose illnesses in children, if contact is made, a request to collect your child will be made. It is therefore important that parent/carer inform staff of ANY (daily) medical concerns or medical history that may help staff.

If staff are significantly concerned an AMBULANCE will be called. Any medical attention sought will be at the family's expense. All families should consider appropriate insurance to cover any expense, including ambulance. As with anything at the Centre, any concerns or preferences should be discussed with the Director.

In the event of a child soiling/wetting themselves at the Centre (apart from children in nappies), the child will be encouraged to change themselves (in a private area) and place soiled clothing in a plastic bag for collection by the parent/carer. Educators will support children, if required, with changing and cleaning.

Unfortunately due to lack of facilities clothing cannot be washed or cleaned prior to bagging, as this could pose a health risk (using sinks unsuitable for this purpose). Every effort will be made to inform parents of the incident.

### **Other Common Circumstances that may occur**

Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea – Contact with parents will be made immediately to request collection of the child. **If your child has had vomiting and/or diarrhoea within 24 hours prior to attending the Centre, please ensure your child stays at home.**

**Headlice** – If live eggs and/or lice are detected whilst at the Centre, a parent will be contacted recommending the child is collected and treatment occur.

**Panadol/Nurofen** – If your child requires panadol or any other pain relief medication prior to attending the Centre, please keep them at home.

### **What do you need to do?**

- Inform staff of any illness or condition and provide any documentation as may be required.
- Consider the health of all and keep home any child with a contagious illness.
- Begin training children in wiping own bottoms
- Let us know if you are concerned about your child's health at any time
- Ensure appropriate insurance to cover medical and ambulance has been considered
- Discuss any medical concerns or preferences with the Director
- Ensure emergency contact information is provided

- Inform your emergency contact people of this policy, and the possibility of them being contacted to collect your child in the event of illness.
- Collect your child from the Centre if they become ill or an illness is aggravated at the Centre

### **Educator Responsibilities**

- Educators are responsible for “duty of care” which requires them to take reasonable care to protect children from foreseeable risk to health or injury.
- Educators are not responsible for administering any medication without a health care / medication plan in place
- Educators are responsible for ensuring Child Protection Principles are considered when managing an incident that may require changing of a child.
- Educators will inform parents of any contagious illness that may be present
- Educators will verse children in appropriate hygiene practices to help manage control of disease and illness – including washing hands before eating and after toileting, putting tissues in the bin etc.
- Educators will include “being healthy” as part of the curriculum
- Educators will refer child and or family to relevant DECD Special Services for additional support, or to external organizations who may provide expertise to support the Centre, child and family with health needs and planning.

**Endorsed July 2015  
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