



Maldon Neighbourhood Centre Occasional Childcare

Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy

RATIONALE

For the general health and well-being of children and adults, it is necessary to minimise the risk of cross infection both through the practise of strict hygiene codes and the isolation of children and staff from the children's service in the case of infection occurring.

AIM

To provide a healthy and safe environment that minimises the risk of infection for the adults and children in their care.

PROCEDURE

A sick child will recover best at home. In the interests of the health of all children, staff and families attending, children should not attend the service if they are unwell.

The following list of symptoms and conditions will exclude a child and Staff from the Children's Service:

- FEVER – A child with a fever of more than 39°C.
- ACCUTE ILLNESS – A child who has been prescribed antibiotics for an acute illness should be kept at home for at least 24 hours.
- CONJUNCTIVITIS - An infection of the eyes, characterised by redness, a yellow discharge and watering. Children should not return to the Centre until they have been on medication for 24 hours and the discharge has ceased.
- A cold with a temperature of more than 39 degrees Celsius, that doesn't respond to treatment with paracetamol.
- An exposed "cold sore", until the blisters have burst and ceased weeping
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease until the blisters on hands and mouth have burst and dried.
- A child who has been vomiting or who has had diarrhoea will be excluded until vomiting/diarrhoea have ceased for a period of 48 hours.
- As per the School Exclusion Table (minimum period of exclusion from school's and children's services centre of infectious diseases cases and contacts).

Parents need to notify the service as soon as possible if their child has an infectious disease.

Early Childcare Workers will notify attending families of an infectious disease present in the service by displaying a notice at the main entrance.

In accordance with the Children's Services Centres Regulations (1996), parents will be notified in the event of their child becoming ill at the service and arrangements made for the child to be collected as soon as possible. If the parent is unable to be contacted Emergency Contacts will be telephoned to collect the child.

Policy Reference Number: POLOCC20160010

Date of endorsement: 2 November 2016

Date last reviewed:

Date for next review: 2 November 2019



In the event that parents/carers and emergency contact persons are unable to be contacted, medical advice may be sought if deemed necessary by the early Childcare Worker, if it is deemed in the best interest of the child.

Until a sick or infectious child can be removed from the centre, staff will make every effort to ensure the child is comfortable, remains under close observation at all times and is separated from well children. Parents will be advised on registering that they may need to make alternative arrangements for sick children.

When a particular infectious disease is present or suspected at the Centre, children who have not yet been immunised against the disease may have to be excluded.

IN RELATION TO STAFF

For the health and safety of children, other staff and parents, staff will not be permitted to attend work if they are suffering from an infectious disease until they have fully recovered or a medical certificate of recovery is produced. It is also requested that staff that are suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting should also be excluded from duties.

HYGIENE PRACTICES

Staff must adhere to appropriate hygiene procedures at all times and also support children to do so.

- Toys that are mouthed are replaced when a child has finished with them so they can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Infants equipment is washed and disinfected daily.
- Nappy changing areas are routinely sanitised after each nappy change.
- Potties are emptied and disinfected after each use.
- Toilet areas are kept clean and disinfected daily.
- Individual bedding is washed at least once a month. Individual cots and mattresses are washed if soiled.
- Staff wash their hands with soap and water before - eating food, feeding children, preparing bottles/food, and after nappy changing, assisting children with toileting or nose wiping.
- Staff encourage children to wash their hand before eating and after going to the toilet, potty or blowing their nose.
- Staff encourage children not to share eating utensils.
- Staff encourage children to replace eating utensils, which have fallen on the floor.
- Staff encourage children not to share combs or brushes.