

Illness Policy

Strand 1 – Well-being– Mana Atua

At (*insert name of centre*) the health and well-being of our children, families and centre whanau is paramount. We aim to provide children with an environment where:

- Their health is promoted.
- Their emotional well-being is nurtured.
- They are kept safe from harm.

The objective of the illness policy is to work in partnership with you, to ensure that our practices and decisions regarding illness are reasonable and fair. During the time your child is with us there may be occasions when they will be affected by illness. This may mean that your child will be unable to attend the centre. Time away from the centre will allow your child to recover and will also protect the health of the other children, families and teachers. We do understand that this often places parents/whanau under extra pressure.

We are guided in our decisions regarding illness by:

- Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 1998 which require us to take appropriate action when a child is unwell (Section 28 Child Health).
- Recommendations from the Public Health Service - 04 570 9002.

Communication and Consultation

We invite you to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's health and well-being with us at any time. If you are worried that your child may be unwell share this information with us when you arrive at the centre. This means that we can be vigilant and alert to any changes in behaviour or signs of illness and can respond to your child's needs promptly. If we have any concerns about your child's health and well-being while they are in our care we will discuss this with you as soon as possible.

Parents and teachers share the responsibility for creating a healthy centre environment, which will protect and nurture children.

Parent/Whanau Responsibilities:

- Provide the centre with up to date emergency contact numbers.
- Discuss concerns about children's health with teachers at the centre.
- Let teacher's know if you have given medicine to you child during the night or prior to arriving at the centre.
- Children should be collected within one hour if unwell.
- Allow your child time to recover before returning to the centre.
- If you are worried about your child's health please seek GP advice before bringing your child to the centre.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Parents will be contacted if there are concerns about a child's health and may be asked to take the child home.
- First aid will be administered where required. *



- Children who are unwell will rest in a well-ventilated and warm room away from other children until collected.
- Efforts will be made to ensure children are comfortable and emotionally supported.
- If we are concerned that a child may be unwell we will keep a record of the child's day detailing any changes in behaviour, symptoms, temperature recordings, food & drink consumption, any authorised medication given.
- Medical help will be sought if a child becomes more ill.
- We may suggest that you consult a GP for diagnosis and treatment.
- We will obtain up to date health information and advice from the Public Health Service (04 570 9002).

** Please note that Pamol/Paracetamol is not kept on these premises for general use. This medication can only be given if it has been signed for by a parent, and has been prescribed for the child for a specific illness, for a specified period of time and contains the date.*

Resolution of conflict

If there is disagreement regarding the need for a child to stay away from the centre due to illnesses we will be guided by the advice of the Public Health Service. It is important to consult a GP for diagnosis and treatment, however there will be occasions when we will need to follow the advice of the Public Health Service with regards to infection control. Parents are welcome to contact the Public Health Service for further clarification.

General conditions indicating that a child should not attend the centre:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in programme activities.
- The illness results in a greater care need than the centre can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- The child has any of the following conditions: fever, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or other signs of possible severe illness.

Specific illnesses indicating that a child should not attend the centre:

- **Diarrhoea:** A general guideline is that no child should attend if they have diarrhoea, and they should have at least one normal bowel motion before returning to the centre. If the diarrhoea was accompanied by any other symptoms such as fever, stomach pains, nausea, vomiting or headache, this indicates a gastrointestinal infection, and the child should stay away until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours.
- **Vomiting** in the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting was once only and was known to be caused by a non-communicable condition. Repeated vomiting suggests an infection, so the child should be taken to a GP for a diagnosis. If the vomiting has been caused by an infection, or the cause is not known, the child needs to stay away until at least 48 hours after the last symptoms. A child who vomits at the Centre should be collected by their parents and taken home.
- **Mouth sores** associated with an inability of the child to control his or her saliva unless the child's GP or Regional Public Health or the Medical Officer of Health advises that the child is non-infectious.
- **Rash** with fever or behaviour change, until a GP has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- **Respiratory Infections:** A child should not attend if they are coughing or sneezing as the result of an infection such as a cold, or have a runny nose, which makes it difficult to control the spread of nasal secretions and/or has a negative social impact upon the child.
- **Skin Infections:** A child should not attend if they have open wounds/sores that cannot be covered either with clothing or bandages to prevent the child from scratching. A child may return providing they have been treated with the appropriate antibiotics, antifungal or anti viral cream for **at least 24 hours**.
- **Conjunctivitis:** A child should not return until there is no discharge present.
- Any child requiring **antibiotics** should remain at home for the first 24 hours.

Public Health Advisors for Early Childhood Education Services provide support and advice on a range of illnesses including practical hygiene guidelines for special situations, letters for parents, and guidance and support for Supervisor decisions. We can be contacted at Regional Public Health on (04) 570 9002.