



Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy

At the Plympton South Kindergarten we promote a safe and healthy environment. One of the best ways of promoting this is to work co-operatively with the families to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Infections are common in children, however we all need to have to be aware of the ways to minimise the spread of disease in our community. We all have responsibilities!

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011:

Regulation 168 (2) (c)

Related key regulations: 88

Links to the National Quality Standards:

National Quality Standard: 2.1

The procedure outlines:

- Parent and Staff responsibilities
- Basic information on when to keep your child at home
- Periods of exclusion for infectious diseases

Parent responsibilities:

If your child is not well and will not be attending the centre, please ring and let the staff know. If it is an infectious disease such as chicken pox, measles etc. let us know so we can then alert other parents to be on the lookout, so precautions can be taken to prevent spread of disease. Refer to the basic information sheet below for guidelines for keeping your child at home.

Staff responsibilities:

Children who arrive at the centre and are obviously unwell will be sent home immediately. Unfortunately if a child becomes unwell during the session, we do not have a suitable area to care for him/her, and/or staff members to assist them on a full time basis. Parents/Caregivers will be contacted straight away to come and collect the child. (If a parent is unable to be contacted, the alternative contact person named on the enrolment form will be called.)

Parents are notified of any case of infectious disease on the parent notice board and fact sheet from "You've got What" resource is displayed and copies are made available for parents.

Things we encourage:

- All families to immunize their children and keep their record card up to date. This will help to prevent serious diseases (e.g. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Measles, Mumps, Polio)
- Hand washing before preparing of and eating food, after wiping noses and using the toilet.
- Staff to wear gloves when handling all body fluid, such as blood, faeces and vomit.
- All children to be toilet trained. We realise accidents will happen but if possible children will need to be independent in the toilet.

Periods of Exclusion for Infectious Diseases.

Bronchitis Stay at home until appropriate medical treatment is given and the child is feeling well.

Chicken Pox Stay at home until all lesions have crusted, there are no moist sores and the child is fully recovered.

Conjunctivitis Stay at home until there is no discharge from eyes.

Croup Stay at home until fully recovered.

German Measles (Rubella) Stay at home for 7 days after rash first appears and the child is fully recovered. Please confirm with a doctor because of the potential severity of the illness to pregnant women.

Head Lice Hair must be treated to eradicate both head lice and nits. Children must not come to the centre until the treatment is completed. If infection is discovered at pre-school, parents will be requested to collect their child immediately so that treatment may start as soon as possible, thus preventing further infection to others.

Impetigo (school sores) Stay at home until sore/s have cleared.

Influenza Stay at home until child feels well.

Measles Stay at home for 7 days after rash appears or until given a clear bill of health by a doctor.

Mumps Stay at home for at least 9 days or until all swelling has subsided, whichever is sooner.

Ring Worm Stay at home until appropriate treatment has commenced, confirmation of this is to be a medical certificate.

Rotavirus (Diarrhoea) Stay at home until diarrhoea symptoms have disappeared and the child feels well again

Parents are notified of any case of infectious disease on the parent notice board and fact sheet from "You've got What" resource is displayed and copies are made available for parents.

When to keep your child at home

Some times it is difficult to know when to keep your child at home from preschool. It is really important for the health of both the other children and staff that you keep your child at home when he/she has any of the following symptoms:

- Is usually tired, pale, irritated or lacks appetite and is generally unwell to be around others.
- Has 3 or more watery solids in a 24 hour period. (Gastroenteritis)
- Thick puss draining from the eyes (Conjunctivitis)
- Has an ear infection
- A body rash or temperature of 38 degrees or higher
- A sore throat, persistent cough or sneeze, swollen neck glands, constant runny nose, or mucus is thick and not clear.
- Has vomited 2 or 3 times within the previous 24 hours.

We understand that it is difficult for working parents to take time off to care for their sick child, Try to make 'just in case plans' (e.g. a neighbour, friend or relative), in the likely event that your child becomes ill.

Resources:

SA Health Website: You've Got What – www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

This Policy has been developed by the Governing Council

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by both the staff and Governing Council and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the Centre. This policy has been developed by the Preschool director in consultation with staff and the Governing Council endorsed by the Governing Council on August 2014

Chairperson

Policy Issue Number 2

Policy review Date:01/08/2016