

Children (Health) Illness (Sick Children) Policy

Aim

Our regulatory requirements allow us to refuse admission to any children who are suffering from an infectious illness, disease or condition which might prejudice the health of other children and staff members. The regulations require that we maintain a healthy and hygienic environment that benefits all. **Children must be well enough to participate fully within the program** and not require specific attention, Children must not expose others to unnecessary infection.

Children require extra care and attention when they are sick. Keeping them resting in a safe environment is important to their recovery and well-being. When young children are ill, they don't understand their emotions and can be very irritable, upset and stressed, it is their parent/guardians responsibility to support and reassure their sick children.

Parent's responsibility: Parents must inform the staff at the Centre if their child is suffering from any form of infectious illness. Parents must provide more than one point of contact, and ensure that someone is available to collect their child if required. Parents must not bring their child to Majura Park Childcare in the following circumstances:

We use the NHMRC's guidelines for all exclusion periods: Common illnesses are:

- Antibiotics. Children will be excluded for the minimum period of 24hrs after commencing a course of antibiotics. This is to reduce the risk of infection to other children and to ensure the child has no adverse reactions.
- Elevated temperatures. Whilst medications may reduce temperatures, they do not ensure that the child is healthy or well enough to participate in the program. Children with elevated temperatures requiring medication must be excluded.
- Conjunctivitis. A child must be excluded when the eyes are actively weeping/ or showing discharge. Conjunctivitis must be treated.
- Cold. A child will not be excluded for a common cold, however, if the symptoms become significant and the child is unwell, the child should be excluded until they recover.

Director's responsibility: If a child becomes ill while at the centre, staff will immediately contact the parent/guardian. The Nominated Supervisor (or Director) is the final authority on whether a child is well enough to participate in the program and not infect other children. The Director may require a Medical certificate stating that the child is free of infection prior to allowing the child/ren to return.

Related policies/procedures/forms or administration tools

- Enrolment form (individual to the child)
- Children Infectious Diseases Policy
- Parent Handbook

Legislative Requirements:

- Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations (ACT) 2011;
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011,

Who is affected by this policy?

- Children and Families and Staff

Sources and further reading:

- Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations (ACT) 2011 ; Staying Healthy in Childcare, NHMRC