



CHILD HEALTH

RATIONALE:

Exclusion of children with infectious diseases from Early Childhood Centres is sometimes necessary where there is potential for further spread of infection. We wish to make the children and adults safe from infection by spelling out clearly under what circumstances a child should be excluded. Exclusion is at the centre manager's discretion.

TE-WHĀRIKI:

Well-being – Goal 1. Children experience an environment where their health is promoted

- If parents have concerns that their child may be unwell or if they should attend preschool, we encourage Whanau to phone the centre and discuss this with staff.
- All information should be shared with teachers upon arrival, giving staff a clear picture of any changes in behaviour or signs of symptoms of illness.
- Individual health plans will be written with child's name and health issue and updated regularly as anything changes.
- If Whanau are unwell, we will ask that an alternative person drop child off at preschool. If not possible to prevent drop offs staff will greet whanau at the door to take child. Staff who do this will need to wear a mask for their health and wellbeing.
- All children waiting to be collected will remain in one space and be monitored and supervised closely by a teacher who is with them.
- If preschool has many children with the same symptoms over a short period of time, a notice will be put out to whanau outlining symptoms and exclusion period.
- If there is an outbreak at preschool (15% of children) preschool will contact local public health for advice and support.

PROCEDURES: (reasons to exclude a child)

- A child suffering from any of the following symptoms will be required to leave the centre AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If a parent is unavailable or unable to remove their child soon enough, the emergency contact person listed on the child's enrolment form may be contacted
- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities
- The illness results in a greater care need than we 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, persistent coughing, or other signs of possible severe illness
- No child with diarrhoea should attend and they should have at least one normal bowel motion at least 48 hours before returning

- Vomiting two or more times in the previous 48 hours, unless the vomiting is known to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration
- Rash with fever or behaviour change, until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease
- Conjunctivitis-until either the infection clears or 2 days after examined by a doctor and treated
- Tuberculosis, until the child's physician or the Public Health Service advises that the child is non-infectious
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has started
- Strep throat, until 24 hours after treatment has started, and until 24 hours after fever stops
- Head lice, or thread worm, until treated
- Scabies, until after treatment has been completed, or sores have crusted and dried
- Chickenpox, until at least 6 days after onset of rash or earlier, and all the lesions have dried and crusted
- Whooping cough, until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy (the total course of the usual treatment is 14 days)
- Mumps, until 9 days after glands started swelling
- For some vaccine preventable diseases, there is a requirement to exclude unimmunised children who have had contact with a case of the disease. This applies to measles, diphtheria, and whooping cough, and would be arranged on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.
- Public Health Service exclusion guidelines will be followed for any conditions not listed above
- Individual health plans will be written in consultation with parents for children who suffer from asthma, epilepsy or specific allergies, or other medical conditions
- A child prescribed antibiotics for any illness should not return until at least 3 days or 72 hours after treatment has started
- We reserve the right to request a medical certificate from a health professional before allowing a child to return from illness.
- Covid related illness as a result of covid, unless a medical certificate has been sent explaining child can be present.
- Public health advice that if children display fever that is 38 deg Celsius or higher they should not return to preschool for 24 hours.
- A full up to date list of further infectious diseases, information and exclusion details is listed at the end of this policy. This chart is taken directly from the Ministry of Health website.

CONSULTATION:

- Who? Families/whanau
- How? Written and discussion
- When?

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Review Date: February 2027