



Quality care & education from birth to five years

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Policy on Child Health & Infection

All children get sick at times, but the minimum standards for Centres set by the Ministry of Education (as set out in the attached Appendix 2: Infectious diseases for criterion HS26), means that children who are unwell cannot be catered for in the Centre. We do acknowledge the difficulties that this can cause working parents and caregivers.

Aim:

To ensure that all practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed on

1. To prevent the transmission of infection to other children, teachers, parents or visitors children with infectious diseases must be excluded from the Centre.
2. **If a child arrives at the Centre who is obviously unwell it will be up to the Centre Manager to decide if the child is well enough to attend. This protects the welfare of other children attending and staff working with the children. Parents must therefore abide by the decision of the Centre Manager.**
3. If a child has a high temperature they should not be sent to the Centre. If a child develops a temperature over 37.6 degrees Celsius the parent will be called to collect their child immediately.
4. Children with vomiting must be excluded from the Centre for 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting. If a child vomits at the Centre the parent will be called to collect their child immediately.
5. Children with diarrhoea must be excluded from the Centre for 48 hours after the last diarrhoeal bowel motion.
6. Children who are suffering loose bowel motions due to antibiotics or teething may attend the Centre at the Centre Managers complete discretion.
7. Children with conjunctivitis must be excluded from the Centre for 24 hours after treatment has begun and there is no discharge coming from the eyes, unless medical clearance is given.
8. Children with impetigo (school sores) must be excluded from the Centre until 24 hours after treatment with antibiotics or until sores have healed.
9. Children with head lice must be excluded from the Centre until after they have been treated.

10. Children with scabies must be excluded from the Centre until 24 hours after treatment has started.
11. Children with chicken pox must be excluded from the Centre for one week from the appearance of the rash and if all the lesions have dried and crusted.
12. Children with whooping cough must be excluded from the Centre for 5 days after the beginning of antibiotic treatment.
13. Children with mumps must be excluded from the Centre for 9 days after the swelling develops, or until the child is well, whichever is the sooner.
14. 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.
15. Public Health Service exclusion guidelines will be followed for any conditions not listed above.
16. Parents and staff will be able to contact the Public Health Nurse as required and have access to other health professionals if necessary.
17. Completion of the enrolment form gives parental permission for emergency care. Where there is such an emergency an ambulance will be called. If deemed appropriate by the Centre Manager, the child will be taken to Bethlehem Medical Centre by a Person Responsible (Phone: 576 4883) and the parent contacted.
18. Children who become unwell while attending the Centre parents will be contacted to collect their child. Until that time the child will be given every care and attention and kept at a safe distance from other children to minimise the spread of infection.
19. Parents are required to provide the Centre with phone numbers where they or an alternative person can be contacted.

Reference:

Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008, 46 Health & Safety Practices standard general:

- HS26: All practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from a disease or condition likely to be passed on to children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them.
 - The action specified in appendix 2 is taken for any person (adult or child) suffering from particular infectious diseases; and
 - Children who become unwell while attending the service are kept at a safe distance from other children (to minimise the spread of infection) and returned to the care of a parent or other person authorised to collect the child without delay.

Links to Policy on Administration of Medicine; Health & Safety Policy; Policy on Staff Health