



Health & Safety

Illness Policy

Policy number: H&S

Date approved:

Date to be renewed: April 2014

Revision: 1

POLICY STATEMENT

Mundarda child care centre operates to provide care for well children, and aims to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all children in its care. Mundarda child care centre is not able to provide the 1 one 1 support that the sick child requires to ensure their wellbeing, and has a responsibility not to compromise the health and safety of other children and staff.

HOW POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED (Specific Policies & Procedures)

Management of unwell children

- Sick children as defined below, cannot be admitted to the centre to safeguard the health of other children and staff members.

Exclusion criteria

A child who has any of the following symptoms cannot be admitted to the centre.

- Ear or eye discharge
- An undiagnosed rash
- High temperature (see High Temperature Indicator below)
- Infectious sores or diseases (children need a doctor's clearance before re-admittance)
- Vomiting and/or abnormally loose bowel actions for that child (exclude for 24hours after last bout).



- Any obvious signs of ill health (children with asthma- obvious difficulty breathing, barking cough, rib retractions etc.).
- Staff with symptoms listed above will not attend work or will be replaced and sent home if they start to display these symptoms while at work.

Onset of illness at the centre

If a child becomes unwell whilst at the centre, the parents/guardians will be notified and asked to pick the child up and remove him or her from care as soon as possible. All illness at the centre is recorded on an Illness Report Form.

If parents/guardians and/ or emergency contacts cannot be contacted or cannot collect the child, relief educators will be employed to care for the child at the parent/guardian's expense. This is to ensure the child can be properly cared for away from the other children (thus reducing the risk of spread of any infections), and the required educator: child ratios are maintained for the remainder of the children in care. This information will be provided to families at the time of enrolment.

This strategy may not be possible in some areas due to the lack of available relief educators. Where this is not possible the centre will need to determine how the sick child can be cared for away from the other children, whilst still maintaining the required educator: child ratios. It may be possible for a non-contact staff member (e.g Director, administration assistant) to care for the child until the parent/guardian arrives to collect the child. NB food handlers should not care for sick children.

If a child has a temperature over 37.4 degrees and is also displaying signs of ill health such as drowsiness, paleness, breathing difficulty, less urine than usual or any of the symptoms listed in the exclusion criteria above, the child's parent/guardian will be notified and asked to take the child home. If the parent/guardian cannot attend the centre to collect the child, the emergency contacts will be contacted. If the emergency contacts cannot be contacted an ambulance will be called. While waiting for the ambulance, educators will take physical steps to try to reduce the child's temperature i.e. removing excess clothing, laying child in a cool place, encouraging the child to drink cool water etc.



High temperature indicator

Mundarda child care centre will monitor a child who has a temperature of 37.4 degrees and when the temperature reaches 37.9-38 degrees educators will contact parents/ guardian to collect their child. If parents/guardian cannot be contacted then emergency contacts will be contacted. If emergency contacts cannot be contacted then an ambulance will be called. However, if other symptoms are present, it may be imperative to call the ambulance earlier

It is recommended that digital thermometers are most appropriate for the child care setting. Mercury thermometers are no longer used with small children due to the risk of breakage and leakage of mercury.

Where a parent / guardian is asked to seek medical advice regarding their child's health, the centre will provide (for the Doctor's information), details about the child's symptoms and any illnesses that have recently affected children or educators/staff attending the centre. All names other than the said child will be kept confidential. The doctor will be asked to complete a **Doctor's Clearance certificate Form** to pronounce the child fit for child care and that other children are not at risk of infection through exposure to this child, before the child can return to the centre.

If a child has any of the following, parents need to be contacted to pick their child up and will need a doctor's clearance to come back:

2 bouts of diarrhoea

1 bout of vomiting

Reoccurring eye discharge after 1 wipe

In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease at the centre, educators, staff, families, visitors and the local public health unit will be notified immediately and in accordance with the NHMRC recommended notifiable disease, to help minimise the number of children or staff who become unwell.

Mundarda Child Care Centre acknowledge that medications contain potent chemical active agents which affects the body's metabolism and should be treated with due



respect and care at all times. No over the counter medications will be administered to children without authorisation by a medical practitioner.

SOURCES:

1. Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition
2. My child.gov.au
3. http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Child_Health
4. Raising children network
raisingchildren.net.au/.../child_care_national_quality_framework.htm...
5. www.careforkids.com.au/articlesv2/article.asp?ID=128
6. Education and Care Services national Regulations 2012
7. ACEQA- National Quality Standards

Useful websites:

- Anaphylaxis Australia - www.allergyfacts.org.au/foodalerts.asp
- Asthma Foundations Australia – www.asthmaaustralia.org.au
- Centre for Community Child Health - www.rch.org.au
- Immunise Australia Program – www.immunise.health.gov.au
- National Health and Medical Research Council - www.nhmrc.gov.au
- NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service - www.mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au