



UNWELL CHILD POLICY

RATIONALE

It is essential to provide parents, whanau, children, and teachers with an environment where health and well-being is promoted and nurtured.

PURPOSE

- To ensure children's well-being is paramount at all times.
- To protect teachers and children from sickness
- To provide clear guidelines for teachers and parents in the event a child may become unwell or be found to have head lice while attending Te Reanga Childcare Centre.

GUIDELINES

- All parents, caregivers, whanau will be given a copy of infectious diseases from the Ministry of Health at enrolment and explained that all children must be excluded from Te Reanga Childcare in the event that they contract any of these.
- The infectious diseases will be on display in the centre foyer and copies available to all parents

UNWELL CHILDREN

Teachers will report to Centre director or Senior Teacher if

- In the event that the child has had 2 or more diarrhoea bowel motions OR is known to have had diarrhoea in the days prior to 1st diarrhoea the child will be sent home immediately. (Teachers will be aware that antibiotics can cause diarrhoea)
- Vomiting (excluding babies spills) occurs
- A child has a temperature of 38°C or higher
- A child has unexplained rashes, blisters or lesions
- Children who are suffering from asthma symptoms, which may require medical aid.
- At the discretion of the teachers for a child who is generally unwell. The presenting sign for a child who is miserable are: glassy eyes, pale, wanting to be picked up or cuddled constantly, unusual sleepiness, flushed, clammy and shivering hot or cold sweats, excessive coughing. (Children may present with 1 or more of these symptoms. Symptoms are not limited to those listed above)

PROCEDURE

- The decision to contact parents will be that of the Centre director or Senior teacher. Where they are unavailable the person responsible (qualified and registered teacher) will make the decision.
- In the event the child is suspected to have a contagious or infectious disease the child will be removed to an area away from other children. The Centre director or Senior teacher may want to discuss rashes, blisters or lesions with parent prior to making a decision of sending the child home.
- The Centre director or Senior teacher will contact parents immediately. If the parent is unavailable teachers will contact the emergency person. In the event that no one can be



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- contacted after a period of 30 minutes, where teachers are concerned for the child's health and well-being a Senior Teachers member will seek medical advice if permission is given on the enrolment form.
- If teachers suspects that the child may have an infectious disease, parents will be requested to take the children to a doctor. If the condition, on confirmation from a medical practitioner, is not contagious and the child is well they may return to day care. If infectious then the child must be excluded using the Ministry of Health guidelines.
 - Children may return to day care 48 hours after the last vomit or loose bowel motion. On return to day care teachers will observe the child and using policy guidelines to judge if the child is well enough to be at day care.

CHILDREN COMPLAIN THEY ARE UNWELL

Children may complain they are unwell with out presenting any of the above symptoms. It is important for teachers not to over react and ensure that they sympathise whilst ensuring that the child is genuine. Common complaints are sore tummy, throats or just generally feeling unwell. Prior to contacting parents, teachers will:

- Suggest the child go to the toilet, have a drink of water, have some quiet time or a lie down, ask if they are hungry.
- If unwell the child will usually repeatedly say they are unwell.
- Tell the Centre director or Senior Teacher who will discretely tell other teachers so they are aware and assess the child again after 20 minutes unless the child shows sign of deteriorating before this time. After reassessing the child the Centre director or Senior Teacher will contact the parent and discuss the next step. This may include continuing to observe the child for another 20 minutes and reassess or the parent collecting the child. This decision is up to the Centre director or Senior Teacher.
- A record of children feeling unwell will be kept. This record will document the child's name, date, time, details of signs and symptoms, specific immediate actions taken by teachers to tend to the child and the outcome. These records will be used to possibly identify patterns of illness and as a reference if ever needed. In the event the child seems to be faking being ill, teachers will consider why this may be happening such as bored, situations at home which may be impacting on the child emotionally, bullying. Checking frequency of complaints, day of the week and times of the day as well as discussion with parents may enable teachers to find out why this is happening.

HEAD LICE

If children are suspected to have head lice by continuous itching of the head or teachers sighting eggs or head lice teachers will:

- Discretely take the child to the bathroom and check the child's hair while wearing gloves.
- In the event that lice or eggs are found teachers will confirm this with a visual check by the Centre director or the Senior Teacher. If only eggs can be found and they are approximately 5mm from scalp they are live, anything further down the hair shaft are dead.
- On confirmation of live lice or eggs:
- The Centre director or the Senior Teacher will contact the parent. In making contact with the parent the Centre director or the Senior Teacher will be sympathetic and professional by the next steps:
- Telling the parent that their child has head lice and asking if they have been treating their child's hair prior to this.
- If the parent has been treating for lice and live lice have been sighted ask them to collect their child and to re-treat and then the child may return to day care.



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- If the parent unaware their child has head lice ask them to collect their child retreat and then the child may return to day care. Teachers will make sure they understand how to treat and where to get the treatment (chemist or prescription from doctors).
- If the child has long hair it will be tied up. The child will be asked to wear a hat until their parent collects them from day care to be treated. The hat will then be washed.

If parents are having difficulty in getting head lice under control refer them to the Public Health unit for advice. The event of two or more cases then the teachers will conduct a hair check as long as parental permission has been given on enrolment forms.

As teachers are not medically trained, decisions will be based on presenting symptoms, this policy and discussion with parents. If teachers disagree with the decision made by the Centre director or Senior Teacher then they will discuss this with them not other teachers. Sharing concerns does not necessarily mean the out come will be different. In considering the above points teachers will, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner and not let their own personal opinions influence their professional duty or conduct with children, parents or other teachers.

See related policies:

- Health and Safety Policies
- Administering Medicine

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE