

Christopher Robin Childcare

Infectious Illness Policy

Rationale:

The exclusion of children with infectious diseases is sometimes necessary when there is a potential risk for further spread of infection. Childcare centres are places where there is a concentration of children and adults and where infectious disease can spread easily to all. A list of infectious and notifiable diseases is contained in Appendix 2 of the Licensing Criteria. Christopher Robin Childcare wishes to ensure that the children and adults that come to the centre are safe from infection, and to communicate clearly the circumstances under which a child should be excluded.

Procedures:

On the notice board there is an illness exclusion chart that parents can refer to: Appendix 2: Infectious diseases for criterion HS26

REASONS TO EXCLUDE A CHILD FROM CHRISTOPHER ROBIN CHILDCARE:

A child suffering with any of the following symptoms will be required to leave the centre AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If a parent is unavailable or is not able to remove a 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 programme activities.
- The illness results in a greater care needed than Christopher Robin 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 or vomiting should attend Christopher Robin. Children must be symptom free for 48 hours, and in the case of diarrhoea have had at least one normal bowel motion before returning to Christopher Robin. Staff members will also be required to stay away from the centre until they are symptom free.
- If a child has a temperature above 37.5° they will be sent home and excluded from Christopher Robin for 24 hours unless a Doctor's note is given.
- Children with conjunctivitis cannot come back until 24 hours after treatment has started and there is no discharge coming from their eyes.
- Children can be sent home with severe head lice infestations. And can only return once treatment has commenced. We will encourage children to have their hair tied back until infestation is gone, and to prevent spreading during this process



- Illness exclusion guidelines will be followed for any conditions not already mentioned.
(refer to Appendix 2: Infectious diseases for criterion HS26)
- While a sick child waits for their parents a staff member will watch over a child until they have been picked up encouraging them to remain in one place away from the general play areas of the other children. If possible they will be taken to the under 2s outdoor area and made comfortable. There is bed and 'Spill Kit' with related items inside designated for this purpose and both are located next to Trish's Office.
- Medication can only be given if it is documented and signed on medication Register.
- Christopher Robin must be notified of any infectious illness within 24 hours of diagnosis.
- Parents/whanau are notified via the outdoor whiteboard of any infectious illnesses, their symptoms, exclusion times and other relevant information.
- Staff with infectious or communicable illnesses must take sick leave

Relevant Background (including Legislation/Regulation/Licensing references)

Licensing Criteria 2008:

- HS26
- HS30

Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008:

- Regulation 57

Te Whāriki. Early childhood curriculum. Ministry of Education (2017):

- STRAND 1 WELLBEING | MANA ATUA

The Ministry of Health's website www.moh.govt.nz has a resource called *Nga Kupu Oranga: Healthy Messages*. It is a health and safety resource for early childhood services and is available to download.

The relevant sections are as follows:

- Section B: Preventing Infectious Illness 10
- B1 Spreading infectious illness 10
- B2 Strategies for early childhood services 11
- B3 Exclusion 13
- B4 Immunisation 18
- B5 Hygiene 19
- B6 Cleaning and disinfecting 22

The Ministry of Health's website has information about preventing infectious diseases

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/immunisation-about>.



Alignment with Other Policies & Procedures

- Hygiene Practise & Procedures
- Infectious Illness Policy
- Accident and Illness Policy
- Cleaning Schedule

Policy Category: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Date Approved: 8/10/2019

Review date: October 2020

