



Management of Sick or Infectious Children Guidelines

Child-Safe Standard:

The Rumpus Room Children's Centre is a Child Safe Organisation.

Aims:

To ensure that sick children are cared for swiftly and that appropriate action is taken to prevent the spread of infection.

To use "Staying Healthy – Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th Edition, as a guide in matters relating to sick children, symptoms and exclusions.

Explanation:

The major elements of an effective infection control policy include the maintenance of high standards of hygiene and health practices. For this reason, as well as the extra demands sick children place on staff resources, the service cannot provide care for ill children.

Implementation:

- **If a child exhibits signs or symptoms of illness, educators will:**
 - a. Inform the child's parent. Where the parent cannot be contacted, emergency contacts will be asked to collect the child.
 - b. Comfort the sick child. Separate the sick child from other children until the child is collected.
 - c. Take the child's temperature and take action to bring down fever as necessary. See following notes.
 - d. The Responsible Person will inform the person collecting the child of any current illnesses in the service and the conditions of re-entry to the service.
- Sick children will not be readmitted to the service until fully recovered or no longer infectious.
- When a child arrives at the service and, in the opinion of the Responsible Person, is too sick to be in attendance, the parents will be asked to take the child home.
- The service will retain the right to exclude any child who is regarded by the Responsible Person to be a health risk to other children, or any child who is obviously unwell.
- If child becomes seriously ill an ambulance will be called in addition to the child's

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parents or guardians.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO BE ALERT FOR:

The following are symptoms, which may suggest a child is ill.

General

Some examples include: the child may cry easily or is not comforted easily; be fretful and listless; lose interest in participating or be unusually quiet; not want to eat; be unusually irritable; feel hot to touch; look tired and flushed; feel cold or look pale; need one to one attention; exhibit any signs or symptoms listed by the NSW Department of Health Guidelines for Exclusion

Fever

Temperature higher than average (38 degrees body temperature), especially if accompanied by other symptoms such as vomiting, sore throat, diarrhoea, headache, stiff neck, undiagnosed rash or convulsion. There is a 24 hour exclusion period if your child has had a temperature.

Respiratory symptoms

Difficult or rapid breathing, or severe coughing, high pitched croup or whooping sound, inability to lie comfortably due to continuous coughing or wheezing.

Diarrhoea/Vomiting

An increased number of abnormally loose stools or vomiting in the previous 24 hours. Associated symptoms include fever, abdominal pain or vomiting. After 2 episodes of vomiting or diarrhoea a child will be sent home

Eye/nose discharge

Thick mucus draining from the ear or nose, or red, swollen and discharging eyes.

Sore throat

Especially with swollen glands in the neck, or fever.

Skin problem

Rash undiagnosed, or contagious. Infected sores that cannot be covered. Persistent itching.

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Unusual Colour / Appearance / Behaviour

Eyes or skin:	yellow (jaundice)
Stool:	grey or white
Urine:	dark tea-coloured

The child looks pale, tired, confused or lacks appetite, irritable or difficult to awaken.

Fit / Convulsion / Reaction to medication

Seek medical attention immediately. Follow personal Action Plans where in place.

Treatment of Fever / Use of Paracetamol.

If a child seems well and happy there is no need to treat a fever.

If under 3 months old, advise the family to seek medical attention. Give clear fluids and reduce clothing. Don't apply cold water sponges which cause the child to shiver but a lukewarm bath may make the child more comfortable.

If a child is not participating in the program, or is showing signs of being unwell they need to be sent home to recover.

Temperature should be monitored and if increasing call the parents immediately.

Paracetamol is only administered for high temperatures of 38oC or more, unwell or distressed and if permission form has been signed. If paracetamol is required, it can be administered, but the family must collect the child within 30 minutes. Verbal permission for paracetamol may be given over the phone but two educators must listen to the authorisation and record details on the medication form.



A child being administered with antibiotics must have had a full 24 hour's worth of antibiotic treatment prior to returning to the Service if the child hasn't previously been prescribed this medication before.

This policy links to the following NQS:

National Quality Standards: 2.1.4, 2.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.3.2

See Appendix 1-National Law (section) and National Regulations (regulation 90-96)



Administering Paracetamol Record				
Child Details				
Surname: _____				
Date of Birth: / /			Given names: _____	
Group: _____			Age: _____	
Circumstances surrounding child becoming ill, including apparent symptoms				
Date: //				
Recorded body temperature: _____ Time: _____				
Recorded body temperature: _____ Time: _____				
Recorded body temperature: _____ Time: _____				
Details of Action Taken				
Checked child's file for written authorisation: Yes				
Parent/guardian called and asked to collect the child within 30 mins by a primary caregiver or responsible person: Yes				
Time contacted: _____ AM/PM				
Expected collection time: _____ AM/PM				
Actual collection time: _____ AM/PM				
Paracetamol				
Type of Paracetamol (e.g. baby or child):_ Expiry date:				
_____ / _____ / _____ Manner in which to be administered (e.g. syringe by mouth):				
Time medication was given:	Dosage:	Name and signature of staff administering medication	Name and signature of witnessing staff checking medication	The identity of the child has been checked: Yes



Parent Acknowledgement

I _____ have been notified that my child has been

Name of parent or Guardian

Given paracetamol by a staff member today.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____