



Infectious Diseases Policy

Rationale/Purpose

Exclusion of children with infectious diseases from Early Childcare Centres is sometimes necessary where there is potential for further spread of infection. We will act immediately to keep the children and adults at our preschool safe from infection by clearly stipulating what circumstances a child should be excluded. Exclusion is at the centre manager's discretion.

Guidelines for Excluding A Child From Attending Preschool:

- A child suffering from any of the following symptoms will be required to leave the centre AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If a parent is unavailable or unable to remove their 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 we 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 Agape Christian Preschool. 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 the preschool.
- Rash with fever or behaviour change – until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Conjunctivitis – until there is no discharge coming from the eyes.
- Tuberculosis – until the child's physician or the Public Health Service advises that the child is non-infectious.
- Impetigo – until 24 hours after treatment has started.
- Strep throat – until 24 hours after treatment has started, and until 24 hours after fever stops.
- Head lice and/or nits – until treatment has commenced and hair has been thoroughly combed. Public health recommends daily combing for 3 weeks to ensure hair is free of nits/lice.
- Thread worm – until treatment is completed.
- Scabies – until after treatment has been completed.
- Chickenpox – until at least six days after onset of rash or earlier, and if all the lesions have dried and crusted.
- Whooping cough – until five days of appropriate antibiotic therapy (the total course of the usual treatment is 14 days.)
- Mumps – until nine days after glands started swelling.
- 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.
- Public Health Service exclusion guidelines will be followed for any conditions not listed above.

- Individual health plans will be written in consultation with parents for children who suffer from Asthma, Epilepsy or specific allergies, or other medical conditions.
- A child prescribed antibiotics for any illness should not return until at least 24 hours after treatment has started.
- We reserve the right to request a medical certificate from a health professional before allowing a child to return from illness.

Lines of Responsibility:

Principal Teacher and Staff

Links to Other Documentation:

Te Whaariki – Goal 1

Date: May 2010

Review Date: July 2011

Signed:

Responsibility for Review: Principal Teacher