



PELORUS COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Child Health Policy and Illness procedures

Education [Early Childhood Services] Regulations 2008 (and its Amendments):

Regulation 45 and 46

Licensing Criteria for Early Childhood Education and Care Centres 2008:

Criterion PF27, HS25, HS26, HS27, HS28, HS29

Rationale

Pelorus Community Preschool has a responsibility to ensure that all children are protected from any illness, ailment and/or condition that could adversely affect their health whilst attending our preschool.

The Board of Pelorus Community Preschool, as a good employer has a responsibility to ensure that all staff and other adults working in the centre are not put at an unnecessary health risk due to the attendance of any child or adult suffering from any illness, ailment or condition.

Purpose

Pelorus Community Preschool wishes to clearly define all procedures that should be adhered to should a child fall ill during the day at preschool. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Child Injury/Accident, Administering Medication and Child Protection Policies.

Policy

If any child is suffering from any infectious disease listed in Appendix 2 of the Health Regulations 2008 (Infectious Diseases - attached to this Policy), the preschool will exclude this child for a period as stated in these regulations. If we have 2 or more cases of an infectious disease The Public Health Nurse will be informed. The needs of the child and other children will be paramount in these decision making processes.

Procedures

Exclusion from preschool

- Children may not return to the preschool until they have been symptom free from vomiting and, or, diarrhea for 48 hours.
- Children may not attend the preschool if they have been on antibiotics for less than 24 hours.
- If a child gets a temperature of 38 degrees or higher (or the reverse where they are cold and shivering) they must be taken home as soon as possible to be appropriately medicated.

- Management will inform the parent or caregiver of the exclusion decision and provide written material upon request. The period of exclusion will also be discussed with the parent or caregiver.
- Any concerns parents or caregivers may have can be discussed with the Preschool Staff or Board.
- In some cases, you may be asked to provide evidence from a medical practitioner regarding a concern around being infectious to others. However, if your whanau teacher is concerned for the well-being of your child and your child does not seem themselves your child may be required to be absent from PCP until your child reaches full health. We like to believe as care givers we know your child well enough to recognise unsettled behavior due to sickness. Exclusion is at the Senior Teacher's discretion.

Isolation

- Should the staff suspect that a child has an infectious disease or a minor illness, the child will be immediately isolated from the other children in the designated isolation area (staff room or Pipi room if not in use) and whanau contacted. The child will be constantly supervised until they are collected.

Illness or Accident

- The following procedures will be followed when cleaning/washing sick children to prevent the spread of infection; Designated bathroom sink and hose will be used for cleaning child, staff will wear disposable gloves and upon completion the area will be sprayed with an appropriate sanitizing solution and thoroughly dried (PF26)
- All accidents and illnesses occurring to the child will be documented on the Illness/Accident form.
- Parents or caregivers will be informed of exact treatment as soon as practicable and a copy of the treatment will be sent home with the child.
- If a child's condition should deteriorate the staff will put the child in isolation seek medical advice and if deemed necessary, seek medical attention. They will either Ring 111 or the Havelock Medical Centre, Lawrence Street, Havelock, (phone 5742233) whose hours of attendance are Monday and Tuesday, all day, and, Thursday morning. The child will be constantly supervised until they are collected.

Policy in Action

If this policy is being effectively implemented the following should be happening in the Preschool:

- Parents will be advised to keep their children away from Preschool if they are unwell.
- Staff will not attend work if they are unwell.
- Parents or caregivers will be rung to collect their child if they become ill and must be able to pick them up within one hour of the phone call.
- Parents will be informed via the notice board, Newsletter and Story Park of any infectious illnesses in the Preschool.

Reviewed: February 2015

Review Date: January 2017