

## Illness policy

In accordance with guidelines set down by the Ministry of Health exclusion of children with infectious illnesses is sometimes necessary, however children with mild respiratory infections will not be excluded as it is likely to have spread before the child shows any symptoms.

A child will be excluded if:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in programme activities.
- The illness results in a greater care need than the centre 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 or other signs of possible severe illness.
- Diarrhoea
  - There are specific guidelines for particular conditions associated with diarrhoea, but until the exact diagnosis is made, no child should attend if they have diarrhoea and they must have at least one normal motion before returning to the centre.
- Vomiting
  - Two or more times in the previous 24 hours unless the vomiting is known to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration. Parents will be notified to collect their child from the centre the first time the child vomits at the centre.
- Mouth sores associated with an inability of the child to control saliva, unless the child's doctor or the Public Health Service or Medical Officer of Health advises that the child is non-infectious.
- Rash with fever or behaviour change, until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Purulent conjunctivitis - this is pink or red whites of the eyes, with white or yellow discharge, often with matted eyelids after sleep and eye pain or redness of the eyelids or skin surrounding the eye - until examined by a doctor and treated.
- Tuberculosis, until the child's doctor or the Public Health Service advises that the child is non-infectious.
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has started.
- *Streptococcal pharyngitis* (Strep throat) until 24 hours after treatment has started and 24 hours after fever stops.
- Head lice, until the morning after the first treatment.
- Scabies, until after treatment has been completed.
- Chickenpox (*Varicella*) until at least 6 days after the onset of the rash or until the lesions have dried and crusted.
- Whooping cough (*Pertussis*) until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy (the total course of the usual treatment is 14 days).
- Mumps, until 9 days after glands started swelling.

- Hepatitis A virus infection, until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice (if symptoms are mild) or until immune globin has been administered to appropriate children and staff in the programme, as directed by the Public Health Service.
- Any unimmunised children in contact with a vaccine preventable disease, (eg: Rubella) for the duration of the incubation period. Please ensure that immunisation certificates are sighted by staff to prevent your child being excluded should this occur.

The Head teacher may exclude any person (adult or child) from the centre who:

- Is in a state of physical or mental health that presents a risk of danger to children.
- Has an infectious or contagious disease or condition