



SECTION 3

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

3.10 Immunisation Policy

Introduction:

Immunisation is an effective means of preventing some infectious diseases. However, some children and adults may have an adverse reaction to a vaccine. Parents are encouraged to seek medical advice on immunising their children. Staff members are also encouraged to seek medical advice on having immunisations for infectious diseases that they may come into contact with at work, including Hepatitis A and B, Measles, Mumps, German Measles (Rubella), Polio, Chicken Pox, Diphtheria and Tetanus.

The Centre recommends that all children and staff are fully immunized according to the latest schedule as provided by the NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council). Up to date immunization records are maintained for all children who attend the Centre.

Aim:

1. To maintain an immunization register for all children attending the centre.
2. To ensure the health and well being of immunized and non-immunized children.
3. To establish procedures for protecting children and staff. This includes the possible exclusion of children and the notification for parents when an outbreak of infectious disease occurs.

Process:

1. Proof of immunisation must be sighted for all children in the centre's care. Parents should bring their immunisation booklet or card for the front office to take a copy of for our files. This must be updated as your child's immunisation is updated.
2. No government rebate (Child Care Benefit) is provided for children who are not immunised.
3. When it is the parents choice not to immunise their children, the Centre requests (on enrolment) a letter that explains this and that an agreement is made that the child will be withdrawn from care when there is an infectious disease or child hood illness in the centre.
4. The Centre will not refuse entry to any child who has not been immunised.
5. The Director will contact and follow the advice of Disease Surveillance Section of Communicable Disease Branch of SA Health on when they are informed by a parent of a confirmed case of a reportable infectious disease (08) 742 7123.
6. The Centre will provide all staff and families with information if a child who usually attends the centre has an infectious disease.
7. Staff and children in the Centre must follow hygiene rules when at work. It is important to teach children to wash hands after toileting, before eating and after playing outside. Staff must also do this so they don't spread infection. By following these simple rules the spread of infection can be stopped.

Date of Implementation: November 2013
Date of Last Review: December 2014, June 2017
Date of Next Review: June 2020

8. Some of the diseases that can currently be reduced in severity by routine childhood immunisations are:

- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Hepatitis B

9. Childcare centre staff are at greater risk of infection than any other type of occupation, so it is important that the staff are aware of how infection is spread and how to prevent this from happening. The National Health and Medical Research Council has issued guidelines to protect child care workers.

10. Because staff can be carriers of communicable infections and because they have a professional responsibility to protect children. Immunisation reduces the risk of exposure to possible infection. It also reduces the risk to the unborn infant. Rubella (German Measles) can cause severe defects in an infant, especially if a woman contracts it in the early months of pregnancy. A woman planning a pregnancy is encouraged to know what her rubella status is before becoming pregnant.

11. The recommended immunisations for staff are:

- measles, mumps, rubella;
- booster doses of diphtheria and tetanus (combined vaccine ADT) every ten years;
- Hepatitis A for those working with children, particularly in situations where the children have not learned self toileting or have additional needs
- Hepatitis B.

SOURCE: Staying Healthy in Child Care and Disease Surveillance Section of Communicable Disease Branch of SA Health.

Relates to Quality Area 2: elements 2.1.1, 2.1.4, 2.3.2, 2.3.3. Regulation 162