Infectious Diseases Policy

1. Aim

UWS Early Learning Ltd will minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, and centre staff, by excluding children who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the centre and reporting any infectious disease outbreak to the local Public Health Unit.

2. Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Division 2 - 88 Infectious diseases

(1) If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at an education and care service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the service.

(2) If there is an occurrence of an infectious disease at a centre-based service, the approved provider of the service must ensure that a parent or an authorised emergency contact of each child being educated and cared for by the service is notified of the occurrence as soon as practicable.

National Quality Standard 2011

Children’s Health and Safety

2.1.3 Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented

2.1.4 Steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness, in accordance with recognised guidelines.

Notification of Infectious Diseases under the Public Health Act 1991 Doc No.: PD2006_014

3. Who is affected by this policy?

a) Child
b) Parents
c) Family
d) Staff
e) Management
f) Visitors
g) Volunteers

4. Implementation

To minimise the spread of Infectious disease between children, centre staff and visitors, UWS Early Learning Centres will:

A. exclude from care and notify the local Public Health Unit and provide details of any known or suspected persons with any of the following vaccine preventable diseases:
   a) Diphtheria
   b) Poliomyelitis
   c) German Measles
   d) Tetanus
   e) Measles
   f) Mumps
   g) Whooping Cough

B. exclude a child or staff member with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have a potentially serious illness: DRSA\\BCD Action Plan / Resuscitation
   a) vomiting,
   b) rash, especially if purplish or hemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal),
   c) severe headache,
   d) stiffness of the neck,
   e) aversion to light (photophobia),
   f) drowsiness or any unusual state of consciousness or behaviour,
   g) convulsion or epileptic seizure.
   h) severe pain anywhere (including toothache),
   i) swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue, throat, neck or airways,
   j) hives,
   k) asthma, wheezing, or any difficulty breathing.

C. exclude a child or staff member with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an infectious illness:
   a) diarrhoea,
   b) generalised rash,
   c) enlarged or tender lymph glands,
   d) severe cough with fever,
   e) head lice, nits, scabies, ringworm, impetigo, or mouth ulcers not yet treated,
   f) mouth ulcers due to herpes simplex virus or coxsackie virus,
   g) infection or yellow or green discharge of the eyes or ears,
   h) excessive yellow or green discharge of the nose,
   i) if any other infectious disease is suspected.

D. Exclude children, staff, volunteers or visitors who have infectious diseases other than listed above in accordance with the NHMRC Recommended Minimum periods of exclusion.

E. Ensure all staff and persons working at the centre conform to all infectious disease policies.

F. Isolate the child from other children. Make sure the child is comfortable, and is supervised by a staff member.
G. Contact the child's parents or, if they are unable, the contact person for emergencies as listed on the enrolment form. Inform the parents or contact person of the child's condition, or suspected condition, and ask that the child be picked up from the centre as soon as possible.

H. Ensure all bedding, towels, clothing, etc., which has been used by the child is disinfected – these articles should be washed separately and, if possible, aired in the sun to dry.

I. Ensure all contact toys are separated and disinfected.

J. Ensure all eating utensils are separated and sterilised.

K. Information will be available in relevant community languages when required.

L. Inform all families of the presence of an infectious disease in the centre.

M. The centre will ensure confidentiality of any personal or health related information obtained by centre staff in relation to any children, children's parents and families.

N. If a child or staff member has been unable to attend the centre because of an infectious illness, when the child or staff member has fully recovered the family or staff member must obtain a certificate from their doctor which specifically states the child or staff member is not infectious and is able to attend care or return to work.

The Licensee/Director/Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

5. Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard 2011
- Staying Healthy in Child Care Preventing infectious diseases in child care 4th Edition

6. Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Supporting Document:
National Health & Medical Research Council
Recommended Minimum Periods of Exclusion

Reviewed: 14.02.12
Date for next review: 14.02.13

Approved by Board
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