**OTTAWA GARDEN’S PRESCHOOL & NURSERY**

**Child Health Policy**

**Background Information**

Licensing Criteria 2008, Health and Safety, Child Health and Well-Being

HS26 All practicable steps are taken to ensure that children do not come into contact with any person (adult or child) on the premises who is suffering from any disease or condition likely to be passed onto children and likely to have a detrimental effect on them. Specifically, the action specified in the Infectious Diseases Chart is taken for adult or child suffering from particular infectious diseases.

HS26 Children who become unwell while attending the service are kept at a safe distance from other children (to minimise the spread of infection) and returned to the care of a parent or other person authorised to collect the child without delay.

**Purpose**

Exclusion of children with infectious diseases from Early Childhood Centres is sometimes necessary where there is potential for further spread of infection. Ottawa Garden’s Preschool wish to make its children and adults safe from infection by spelling out clearly under what circumstances a child should be excluded. Exclusion is at the centre manager’s discretion or designate or upon the directive of the Public Health service.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure staff are not sick and are capable of working and to exclude them if they are suffering from a specified infectious disease. If a staff member becomes ill or has an infectious or contagious disease or condition then they shall not enter or remain on the premises where the service is providing care for children.

To ensure the spread of infection amongst children is minimised, we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that children do not come into contact with anyone (including staff, parents, visitors and other children) who may have any disease or condition (that is likely to have a detrimental effect) and which is capable of being passed on. At all times we will follow the Infectious Diseases chart, issued by the Ministry of Health, a copy of which is held in the office.

Temperature is one of the markers of the onset of child illness. If a child’s temperature reaches 38 Deg C, parents will be informed.

The child may be taken into the Isolation Room (situated in the sleep room) and supervised until they are able to be picked up. If a parent is unavailable the emergency person(s) will be contacted. Common sense will prevail in all situations.

**Procedures**

(REASONS TO EXCLUDE A CHILD FROM OTTAWA GARDEN’S 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. Parents are responsible for maintaining correct contact details for children.
* A child prescribed antibiotics for any illness should not return until at least 24 hours after treatment has started.
* If the illness results in a greater care needed than Ottawa Garden’s Preschool can reasonably provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children and teachers.
* 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 will attend Ottawa Garden’s 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 Ottawa Garden’s Preschool.
* Rash with fever or behaviour change – until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
* Conjunctivitis – until the child has been treated and 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 (School Sores) – until 24 hours after treatment has started. On return to the centre all lesions are to be covered.
* 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 conditioner through hair for three weeks to ensure hair is free of nits/lice.
* Thread worm – until treatment is completed.
* Scabies – until 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.

Date Adopted\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date for Review\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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