

PROCEDURE: INFECTIOUS DISEASE, ISOLATION AND EXCLUSION OF A SICK CHILD

This is a summary of the policy. For a copy of the full Policy, please see the centres Policy Folder.

Purpose:

To provide a safe and healthy environment at Apples Childcare & Learning Centre by minimising the spread of infectious disease amongst the staff and children. To meet legal requirements placed on the centre by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health

Procedure:

Due to the risk of infection we are unable to care for sick children. Children must be kept at home if they have any of the following symptoms. Under the Early Childhood Regulations, any child suffering from an infectious disease shall be excluded from attending a Centre:

1. High temperature
 - In all cases, we will follow the first aid procedure to try and bring the child's temperature down
 - Over 38 – a child must go home within the hour (ideally 30 minutes). It is recommended by the Ministry of Health that medical attention is sought for children with temperatures over 38.3.
 2. Inflamed throat or eyes – the child can return once their general wellbeing is better.
 3. An unidentified rash – the child can return after a doctor has confirmed the rash is not contagious.
 4. An upset stomach, vomiting and diarrhoea – the child can return 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.
 5. Conjunctivitis – the child can return 24 hours after treatment is started.
- Children with severe colds, coughs, diarrhoea, vomiting or infectious diseases listed by the Ministry of Health **must not** be brought into the centre. This is a necessary rule, not only to avoid the spread of infection to staff and children but also for the sake of the child. If your child is suspected of having an infectious disease a medical certificate may be required before the child is allowed back into the centre.
 - If your child shows signs of an infectious disease over the weekend it is the parent or guardians responsibility to inform the centre as soon as possible.
 - If your child becomes ill during the day staff will phone you immediately and will require the child to be picked up from the centre as soon as possible (preferably within the hour).
 - If your child is suffering from vomiting and/or diarrhoea they must be excluded from the centre for a period of 48 hours from the last episode. A Doctors certificate may be required in some circumstances of a prolonged communicable illness.