Immunisation Policy

Policy Number 2.4

Links to Education & Care Services National Regulations: 162

Rationale

Immunisation is the most effective way to safely protect the health of young children. Immunisation programs aim to control and eventually eliminate infectious diseases that can cause ill health, disability and death. The National Immunisation schedule protects children from:

- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)
- Mumps
- Meningococcal disease
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Rubella
- Tetanus
- Measles
- Hepatitis B
- Pneumococcal disease
- Varicella (chicken pox)

Policy

Parents will be encouraged to immunise their children against all diseases appropriate to the child’s age. In accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines, children who are not immunised may be excluded from care during outbreaks of some infectious diseases, even if they are well. (see Access to Service policy).

All staff will be encouraged to have all childhood immunisations. All adults should receive booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria vaccine every 10 years.

Families seeking Childcare Assistance for the first time for a child who is less than 7 years old will need to meet government immunisation requirements or have an approved exemption to be eligible for childcare benefit.

Practices

- Families are to provide proof of immunisation on enrolment. This can be by letter from child’s doctor, baby health clinic or nurse, local council, or hospital; Personal Health Record (blue book); or the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register History Statement (ACIR).
- Families are required to inform service when immunisation is updated.
Immunisation Policy  cont...

- Service is to provide information on and encourage all children and staff to have up to date age appropriate immunisation in accordance with the current Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule.
- Ensure that cases of infectious diseases have been confirmed by a doctor.
- Inform all staff, children and visitors that there have been confirmed cases of immunisable diseases in the centre.
- In accordance to the Public Health Act 1991, report outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases to the Health Unit and ask for their advice about exclusion of unimmunised staff and children; those whose immunisation is not up to date and children who are too young to be immunised.
- Refer to exclusion policy for NHMRC recommended exclusion periods
- Provide families who choose not to immunise their children with a copy of the exclusion policy.

Developed in consultation with Staff, Families and Board of Directors

References:  Childcare and Children’s Health Vol. 8 No.3 May 2005

Reviewed  October 2006
Next Review October 2007

Reviewed  October 2007
No Changes Made

Next Review October 2010  No changes made  Next Review October 2013

Review:
This policy will be updated when:

- Changes are made to regulations or legislation
- We become aware of information indicating that best practice requires us to make alterations to our existing policy
- As part of the services normal policy review cycle of three years