



St. Mary's Preschool

61 Maxwell Rd, Blenheim, P: 03 578 0678, E: office@stmaryspreschool.co.nz
www.stmaryspreschool.co.nz

Sickness and Infectious Diseases Policy

Rationale

Kaiako and parents share the responsibility for maintaining a healthy centre environment to protect children and staff and ensuring the spread of infection/illness is minimal.

Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008 R46 1

When a child becomes unwell:

Symptoms may be fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, lethargy, spots/rash or any appearance of ill health that is concerning to staff.

Parents/caregivers may be contacted if the child has little energy or not meeting the demands of the day.

- Staff will take all practicable steps to isolate the child from others that attend the centre. The child will be supervised at all times.
- If necessary, their clothes will be changed and any soiled clothing will be double bagged and given to the child's parent/caregiver to take home.
- Staff will wear disposable gloves when dealing with any body waste or fluid. These will be double bagged, and disposed of.
- The child's parent/caregiver will be contacted immediately, requesting the child to be picked up without delay. If contact cannot be made, emergency contacts will be contacted as per the child's enrolment form.
- The parent/caregiver must collect the child from preschool as soon as possible, preferably within 30 minutes or make arrangements for another person to do so.
- If the child's condition deteriorates and the staff are concerned. They will consult with the Senior Teacher, or person responsible, and if required an ambulance will be called and the child will be transported to Wairau Hospital. A teacher will travel with the child if ratios allow.
- If a child requires showering, teacher to inform another teacher they are showering a child.
- The shower facility will be cleaned and disinfected and disposable gloves will be bagged and placed in the rubbish bin.
- Towels, face cloths used for showering to be washed separately in line with the Laundering of Linen Policy
- Information in regards to the sick, soiled child to be recorded in the illness register
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When should a child stay away from preschool:

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in the programme activities.

- When a child has a temperature of 38 degrees or over. The child must remain free of a fever for 24 hours before returning to preschool.
- When they have vomiting and diarrhoea. They must be symptom free for 48 hours and must have had one normal bowel motion, or be able to keep food down for 48 hours.
- When prescribed antibiotics for any illness. Children should not return until at least 24 hours after treatment has started, or at the Senior Teacher's discretion.
- When they have a rash with fever or a behavioural change, until a doctor has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Public Health exclusion guidelines (see Immunisation and Notifiable Diseases Policy)
- St Mary's Preschool reserves the right to request a medical certificate or clearance from a health professional before allowing a child to return following illness.

Accident or Medical Emergency

- If a child has a serious accident or medical emergency, their parents/caregivers are to be contacted immediately and the child transported by ambulance to Wairau Hospital. A teacher will travel with the child if ratios allow.
- They must not be transported in a teacher's car.
- The Senior Teacher will notify the Board of Governors of the accident/emergency.

Head Lice

- The primary responsibility for the identification, treatment and prevention of Headlice in a child lies with the parents/caregivers.
- If staff become aware that a child has headlice, a general alert must be posted in an email and on the whiteboard advising that there is an infestation and what to do.
- If a child has live lice or eggs within 1cm of the scalp they must be kept away from preschool until they have received treatment.
- Pamphlets and information will be available to parents/caregivers.
- Children will be reminded not to share hats, hair ties etc.
- In certain circumstances, the preschool may be able to provide support to families to treat headlice.

Date Reviewed	March 2022
Board Ratified	17/03/2022
Next Review	March 2025