**Happy Little Butterfly**

**Early Learning Centre**

# Infectious Diseases Policy

**Aim**

**Happy Little Butterfly Early Learning Centre** will minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases between children, and the Service, by excluding children, educators/staff, and visitors, who may have an infectious disease or are too ill to attend the Service.

**Legislative Requirements**

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2017

National Quality Standards 2018

Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Public Health Act and Regulation (NSW) 1991

**Who is affected by this policy?**

Children

Parents

Family

Educator

Staff

Management

Visitors

Volunteers

**Implementation**

To minimise the spread of Infectious disease between children, educators/staff and visitors, **Happy Little Butterfly Early learning Centre** will:

* 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:
	+ Diphtheria
	+ Poliomyelitis
	+ German Measles
	+ Tetanus
	+ Measles
	+ Mumps
	+ Whooping Cough
	+ Chicken Pox
* exclude a child or educator/staff member with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have a potentially serious illness:
	+ vomiting,
	+ rash, especially if purplish or hemorrhaging spots (possibly meningococcal) or blistering (possibly staphylococcal),
	+ headache,
	+ stiffness of the neck,
	+ aversion to light (photophobia),
	+ drowsiness or any unusual state of consciousness or behaviour,
	+ convulsion or epileptic seizure.
	+ severe pain anywhere (including toothache),
	+ swelling of the lips, mouth, tongue, throat, neck or airways,
	+ hives,
	+ asthma, wheezing, or any difficulty breathing,
* exclude a child or educator /staff member with any of the following symptoms which might indicate they have an infectious illness:
	+ diarrhea,
	+ generalised rash,
	+ enlarged or tender lymph glands,
	+ severe cough with fever,
	+ head lice, nits, scabies, ringworm, impetigo, or mouth ulcers not yet treated,
	+ mouth ulcers due to herpes simplex virus or coxsackie virus,
	+ infection or yellow or green discharge of the eyes or ears,
	+ temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or over.
	+ if any other infectious disease is suspected.
* Exclude children, educators/staff, volunteers or visitors who have infectious diseases other than listed above in accordance with the NHMRC Recommended Minimum periods of exclusion.
* Ensure all educators/staff and persons working at the Service conform to all infectious disease policies.
* Isolate the child from other children. Make sure the child is comfortable, and is supervised by an educator/staff member.
* Contact the child’s parents/guardians or, if they are unable to be contacted, an authorised nominee for emergencies as listed on the enrolment form. Inform the parents/guardian or authorised nominee of the child’s condition, or suspected condition, and ask that the child be picked up from the Service as soon as possible.
* 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.
* Ensure all contact toys are separated and disinfected.
* Ensure all eating utensils are separated and sterilised.
* Information will be available in relevant community languages when required.
* Inform all families of the presence of an infectious disease in the Service.
* The Service will ensure confidentially of any personal or health related information obtained by the Service, in relation to any children, educators/staff, children’s parents/guardian and families.
* Parents are responsible for keeping their children home if they exhibit the above mentioned symptoms for a period of 24 hours for vomiting, diarrhea and temperature exceeding 38 degrees Celsius
* If a child or an educator/staff member has been unable to attend the service because of an infectious illness, when the child or an educator/staff member has fully recovered the family, or an educator/staff member must obtain a certificate from their doctor which specifically states the child or an educator/staff member is not infectious and is able to attend care, or return to work.

**If a child has not been immunised, they may be excluded from care during outbreaks of some infectious diseases, even if their child is well, depending on advice from the Public Health Unit.**

**The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.**

**Sources**

**Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010**

**Education and Care Services National Regulation 2017**

**Guide to the National Quality Standard 2018**

**Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017**

**Staying Healthy in Child Care 5th Edition**

**Immunise Australia** [**www.immunise.health.gov.au**](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au)

**Public Health Act and Regulation (NSW) 1991**

**Review**

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

**Originated: January 2020 Date for next review: January 2021**