

Children's Immunisation Policy

Aim

To encourage all children and their families to maintain up to date immunisation and provide such records in accordance with the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule to ensure immunisation records are maintained in an orderly and up to date manner at all times.

Implementation

To minimise risks, complications and the spread of vaccine preventable diseases:

- The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents/guardians of all children enrolling in child care facilities and pre-schools to provide written/documented evidence of the child's immunisation status and records. Immunisations received should be appropriate to the child's age. Immunisation is not compulsory; however, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at the centre, **unimmunised children will be required to not attend the centre throughout the duration of the outbreak.**

Documentation accepted is:

- A letter from the doctor, health clinic nurse, local council or hospital or
 - The Personal Health Record ("Blue Book") or
 - The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register History Statement.
- It is the families' responsibility to ensure that their child's immunisation is up to date.
 - Parents will be reminded to update their immunisation register.
 - Parents must provide updates to the child's immunisation record. Failure to comply with this directive will mean the child will be regarded as being unimmunised.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Islander children have a different immunisation schedule which is available on request/or if needed.
 - The Public Health Unit is to be advised as soon as the centre is aware that a child has contracted a vaccine-preventable disease. The Medical Officer of Health may direct that unimmunised contacts be excluded from the centre for the duration of the outbreak. Any such directive must be complied with by all Educators, children, families and visitors.
 - If required by the Public Health unit, all families, Educators and persons normally working in and/or visiting the premises will be notified in writing that an outbreak of a particular infectious disease has occurred.
 - On instruction from the Public Health Unit, the child that is to be excluded will be notified in writing and the centre must ensure that the child/Educators is excluded for the specified period.
 - The Immunisation Register must be made available for inspection by the Medical Officer of Health of the local Public Health Unit.
 - Parents will be informed via the parent handbook that all unimmunised children will be excluded if a there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, if advised by the Public Health Unit.
 - Parents are responsible for payment of fees while their child is excluded under all circumstances.
 - Parents are to be aware that your account may not be eligible for CCB (Child Care Benefit) or may be suspended if the child's immunisations are not up-to-date.

Legislative Requirements

- Education and Care services National Law Act 2011
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority
- Public Health Act (Amendment) 1992,
- Occupational Health & Safety Act 1989

Who is affected by this policy?

- Children and Families
- Educators and Management
- Visitors

Sources and further reading:

- Health & Safety in Children's Centre's: Model Policies & Practices
- Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule: www.health.gov/pubhlth/immunise/schedule_n2.htm
- Education and Care services National Law Act 2011

Review: This policy will be reviewed annually. The review will be conducted by:

- Management and Employees
- Interested Parties (Including Families, NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate Department of Education and communities, ACECQA etc.