

Centennial Infant and Child Centre

CATEGORY: Health

DATE: July 2017

SUBJECT: Exclusion of Sick Children

APPROVED BY: Barb Hannah, Executive Director



UPDATED:

Exclusion of Sick Children Policy and Procedures

Policy Statement

Centennial Infant and Child Centre (CICC) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. CICC will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within our centre.

Purpose

To ensure that all staff, students and volunteers are aware of and adhere to the directive established by Toronto Public Health (TPH) regarding the exclusion of sick children in early learning and child care centres.

Applies to

This policy applies to all staff at CICC.

Procedures

As required by the Child Care and Early Years Act, CICC must separate children of ill health and contact parents/guardians to take the child home.

When children are ill, staff will ensure the following:

- Ill children are cared for and comforted by staff, while monitoring symptoms
- Ill children will be separated from other children when possible
- Symptoms of illness will be recorded in the child's client file.
- The parent/guardian of the ill child will be notified to take them home; or
- If it appears that the child requires immediate medical attention, the child will be taken to the hospital by ambulance and examined by a legally qualified medical practitioner or a nurse registered under the Health Disciplines Act. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, s. 34 (3).

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If you suspect a child has symptoms of a reportable communicable disease (refer to CICC Guidelines for Common Communicable Diseases), please report these immediately to TPH's Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit (416-392-2489).

When to exclude

Toronto Public health recommends child care employees should exclude a sick child when the child has two signs and/or symptoms that are greater than normal, or if the child is unable to participate in regular programming because of illness.

Exclusion Examples:

- If a child has diarrhea and a fever that is above normal for that child, then exclusion should occur
- Child has runny nose, fever, generally not feeling well and parents request the child does not participate in outside activities. Exclusion should occur

How to exclude

When excluding a child, they must be separated by at least 2 metres/6 feet from others. In most child care centres, the supervisor's office will suffice; however, if this is not an accessible space then please separate the ill child from others as best as possible.

Surveillance

Ensuring that all environmental conditions are constantly monitored is essential in prevention and reducing illness. Staff must monitor for an increase in above normal amount of illnesses among other staff, students, volunteers and children by looking at the normal occurrence of illness and during the specific time period.

Ensure surveillance includes the following:

- Observe children for illness upon arrival
- Record symptoms of illness for each child
- Record attendances and absences

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Child returning from exclusion due to illness

Please refer to the Management of Common Communicable Diseases policy and procedures

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all staff, prior to commencing employment at CICC and annually thereafter and at any time where a change is made.

The review will be documented on the CICC Policy Review form, a hard copy will be retained in the individual's file for a minimum of 3 years.

Reference(s): Toronto Public Health Guidance Document 2017