

HEALTH & SAFETY - IMMUNISATION

POLICY – The Centre will keep a record of every child’s immunisation status and provide current information about the benefits of immunisation to parents.

Rationale

Immunisation is the cheapest and most reliable method of preventing some infections.

Diseases prevented by immunisation:

- Haemophilus Influenzae (Hib) - Hepatitis B
- Diphtheria - Tetanus - Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Measles - Mumps - Rubella
- Meningococcal C
- Pneumococcal
- Poliomyelitis
- Chicken pox
- HIB

Immunisation protects the person who has been immunised, children who are too young to be vaccinated and people who have been vaccinated but do not respond to the vaccine. The principle of immunisation (or vaccination) is simple; it gives the body a memory of infection without the risk of natural infection. A high level of immunisation in the population confers herd immunity, which protects non-immunised children from exposure.

PROCEDURE

1. In line with current Victorian “No Jab No Play” legislation, from January 2016 no child will be able to enroll in either Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative’s long day care centre or family day care scheme unless they are fully immunised and the required immunisation status certificate is provided to the Administration Office. Conscientious objection is no longer a permissible ground for non-immunised status. Children previously enrolled at either Castlemaine Childcare Centre or Mt Alexander Family Day Care Scheme (prior to January 2016) who are not fully immunised will be able to continue to attend the service despite their immunisation status.
2. Castlemaine Childcare Co-operative will encourage all parents to make sure their children receive all the immunisations recommended for their age group. Where a child is non-immunised due to conscientious objection or medical advice, the service will inform the parent about the necessity to exclude the child in the case of confirmed outbreak in the service of a listed disease.
3. Immunisation status is recorded on each child’s enrolment form. Parents are required to up-date their child’s records as necessary. Care will not commence until this information is recorded, and provision of the required immunisation status certificate is given to the Administration Office.
4. All non immunised children will be excluded from care if there is an outbreak of a notifiable disease, until the outbreak is deemed to be over. Homeopathic or other alternative methods of protection do not meet the immunisation requirements as outlined in the NHMRC guidelines; in the event of an outbreak of a notifiable disease, these children will be excluded from care until the outbreak is deemed to be over.

Sources: “Staying Healthy in Child Care - Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care” 5th Ed.– NHMRC 2012
The Blue Book – DHS 2006
Kidsafe Victoria website
DHS/NHMRC exclusion poster – 2006
Kidsafe Victoria website
ACECQA
National Law and Regulations 2012 85, 168(2)(c)

Reviewed September 2005, November 2008, July 2009, July 2012, April 2017