**Illness and Exclusion Policy**

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Kinnegad Community Childcare Clg to treat illness considering the health and safety of all children, parents and Educators in Cairdeas.

This policy has been updated in line with current guidance: HSPC Infection Prevention and Control for childcare services during the Covid-19 Pandemic

**We would appeal to all parents to inform us when your child is unwell (even in minor cases).**

**Please phone the centre at 044 937 9346 or 085 7671104**

We are required by HSE to keep an infectious disease register. It is also our duty to inform other parents of any cases of illness/infectious diseases.

We are a **NUT FREE CENTRE**. As much as we appreciate nuts as a healthy form of snack, we also acknowledge that a nut allergy can be fatal. Therefore we ask all parents **NOT to bring nuts** into the centre. This may include nuts in pure form but also cakes, sweets with nuts like Celebrations or Kinder Chocolate. Any of these even in the child’s bag can cause potential danger.

Please **DO NOT leave medicine/inhalers in your child’s bag**. This can cause danger to other children in our care. Always leave medicine with the Supervisor on duty.

**Procedure:**

**In all cases the first steps remain as follows:**

Educators will report any illness, unusual signs/symptoms or changes in behaviour to the Supervisor on duty.

The Supervisor will contact the parents and make them aware of the condition of their child

Educators will monitor the child closely and take note of any changes

If a child becomes increasingly unwell, and parents cannot be reached, a doctor or ambulance will be called.

The management team will reserve the right to exclude a child who is showing signs and symptoms of a contagious illness in an effort to contain the spread. A letter from the doctor will be necessary to reattend.

**Depending on the circumstances, different approaches are taken:**

Rash (can be something simple like heat, but can also be dangerous/contagious in cases of meningitis, chicken pox or impetigo).

Parents are contacted if it appears that the illness is contagious or the child’s condition deteriorates rapidly.

Vomiting / diarrhoea **(**which can spreadE-coli and other types ofstomach bug). HSE instruct that Educators and children who display those symptoms should **be kept away from the childcare facility for 48 hours** after **the last bout** of vomiting/diarrhoea)

Parents are contacted after the second bout of vomiting/diarrhoea or if the first bout is severe.

Fever **(**which is usually a sign of the body fighting an infection or a symptom of **Covid-19**).We can administer an anti-febrile medicine in the centre in line with the Medication Administration Policy.

Parents are contacted before we administer the medicine. We continue to monitor the child’s form and temperature and if it doesn’t improve, parents are asked to collect the child.

If a child is **prescribed medication**, he/she should be kept at home **for a minimum of 48 hours** to reduce the risk of infection and to allow the child a chance to recover. **We can administer antibiotics within the centre after the specified period of exclusion,** once the medicine is in its original packaging with clear instructions from the doctor and a written consent from parent **(**see Medication Administration Policy).

Ongoing treatments:

**Inhalers** (we administer inhalers with a written consent from parents. Please bring the inhaler and leave it with the supervisor. Both the inhaler and the pump must be clearly labelled).

**Anti seizure medication** (Buccolam shall be left in the centre, clearly labelled with written instructions from a doctor)

**Allergy medication** (epi pen and antihistamines shall be left in the centre, clearly labelled with instructions from a doctor).

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