



Immunisation for Children and Staff

Policy

Stepping Stones Child Care Centre supports the National Immunisation Program (NIP) which is currently recommended by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and supported by the Commonwealth Government. Centre staff are committed to preventing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases through simple hygiene practices such as hand washing, effective cleaning procedures, monitoring immunisation records and complying with recommended exclusion guidelines and timeframes for children and staff.

Immunisation for children in child care is not compulsory and Stepping Stones Child Care Centre recognises that it is the parent/guardians decision whether to have their child immunised.

Family Assistance Office/Centrelink is notified of each child's vaccination status and Childcare Rebate may be allocated if immunisation is up to date or the appropriate forms stating 'Conscientious Objection to Immunisation' or 'Confirmation Natural Immunity' have been completed.

Procedure:

- Immunisation records are to be presented at the time the child is enrolled at Stepping Stones Child Care Centre, and families are asked to update the centre's record at the time of each immunisation thereafter.
- If a child has not been vaccinated as per recommended schedule, this information will be added to the child's enrolment documents and the child's parents will be informed if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease and the child may be required to be excluded from the service until the disease outbreak is under control. Non immunised children will be added to the Centres "Non Immunised Register" with Parent contact details.
- Signs are posted around the Centre and emails sent to alert families if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease present at the centre.
- Information about immunisation and infectious diseases is available at the centre and can be translated into several different languages for parents and staff if required.
- Staff are encouraged to discuss vaccinations with their own treating doctor, in particular for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Chickenpox, Whooping Cough and Influenza. Please refer to Immunisation Recommendations for Staff.
- Identifying symptoms of an excludable infectious illness or disease are outlined in the Stepping Stones Child Care Centre Infectious Diseases and Sick Children Policy.

Source:

- Department of Health & Ageing www.immunise.health.gov.au
- ACT Health www.health.act.gov.au
- Victorian Department of Health www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation
- "Staying Healthy in Childcare, Preventing Infectious Diseases in Child Care, 4th Edition", National Health and Medical Research Council

- National Childcare Accreditation Council www.ncac.gov.au

This policy links to the following CCQA Principles:

Quality Practices Guide (2005) – Principle 5.5, 6.6 & 7.2

Developed March 2007
Last Reviewed: 24th November 2009
To be Reviewed: November 2010

Reviewed in consultation with staff and parent committee members, current at November 2009.