

## **Illness Policy**

Crèche Cois Laoi believes in the interest of the child who is ill and the welfare of other children and staff, children who are unwell should not attend the Crèche.

### **Procedure**

When their child becomes ill, it is essential that parents follow the procedures below to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses to the other children and staff in the crèche. This is obviously important in itself, and also, it will enable us to ensure staff do not contract contagious illnesses and thereby help maintain the child: staff ratio and hence the welfare of all children.

- Parents must inform the crèche if they know or suspect that their child has been sick or has a contagious illness. Parents will be notified of any infections in return. Crèche Cois Laoi encourages two-way communication on all health issues.
- Parents must not bring in a child into the crèche during the first 24 hours of any infectious disease, or longer where necessary to prevent the spread of infection.
- Parents will be required to care for their children at home if they are suffering from or show any of the following symptoms:
  - Acute symptoms of food poisoning / gastroenteritis
  - Any contagious / infectious diseases, for example impetigo, chicken pox.
  - An oral temperature which is over 38°C (100.5°F)
  - A severe earache, or a deep hacking cough
  - Severe congestion
  - Difficulty breathing or untreated wheezing
  - An unexplained rash
  - Vomiting (more than twice in the current 24 hours)
  - Diarrhoea (more than twice in the current 24 hours)
  - Is unable to participate comfortably in activities as determined by staff
  - Requires more care than staff can give, which may result in compromising care for the other children
  - Complaints of a stiff neck and headache with one or more of the above symptoms
  - If a child has head lice, they cannot attend the crèche until their hair has have been treated with a medicated shampoo and combed with a lice comb
  - A contagious disease-if a parent of their child or a staff member knows or suspects that they have a contagious disease, they are asked to inform the crèche management and to arrange that they visit their doctor to confirm the diagnosis and to receive medication(s) if needed. Parents or staff will need to supply the crèche with a note from their doctor describing the condition and confirming the date that the child can return to Crèche Cois Laoi.

- Observation of children following immunisation is essential to monitor any changes; two-way communication is of great importance during this time. The crèche management must be informed of all immunisations when they happen.
- Parents are requested not to bring in a child during the first two days of an antibiotic treatment. It is at the Managers to discretion to allow the child to return to the crèche after these two days of absence. The crèche manager may ask the child's parents to take the child out of the service if she deems that the child is not yet well enough to return.
- If a child becomes ill in the crèche, staff and management monitor how he/or she is doing. If the child's condition deteriorates, the parent will be contacted and permission to administer Calpol or alternative will be sought. If the parent cannot be contacted, Calpol will be administered if permission has been given on the child's enrolment form.
- If the Calpol or alternative does not have an effect after 30 minutes, staff and management decide whether the child should remain in the crèche. The parent will be contacted and asked to collect their child within one hour.
- Parents will not be contacted unless staff and management feel that the child's illness is not improving or is contagious.
- If you are requested to collect your child from the crèche due to illness, please ensure your child only returns to the crèche when he or she has sufficiently recovered. If the child is brought to the crèche the following day, their temperature will be checked by a staff member in the parent's presence, and if it is not within the normal range (i.e. 37°C) the parent will not be allowed to leave the child in the crèche that day.
- In some circumstances, a medical certificate confirming the child has sufficiently recovered from illness may be requested.
- Fresh air and exercise significantly enhances the health and growth of a child. Parents, who feel their child is too ill to participate in outdoor activity, will be advised by staff to keep him/her at home an extra day to ensure a complete recovery.

**(Please see Medical Administration Policy .**

## **Crèches responsibility to notify parents of child's illness**

Parents will be alerted as soon as possible if their child is ill or if any other illness has occurred within the crèche, as set out in the Parent's Handbook and the Health and Safety Statement.

If a child becomes ill while attending Crèche Cois Laoi staff will immediately contact the child's parents or "emergency contacts" and inform them of the situation, parents must arrange for the child to be collected from the crèche as soon as possible.

Children who are sick will be treated as follows whilst waiting for the parent to collect the child.

- Isolate the sick child from the other children in a way that is nurturing to the child and as much as space allows
- When needed, provide the child with somewhere to lie down while they are waiting, perhaps a bed or beanbag
- Linen used for the child resting and toys played with while waiting for the parent to arrive must be sanitized following use.
- Take the child's temperature when any of the following signs are present-Nausea, vomiting, flushed cheeks, warm to the touch on the back of your hand, diarrhoea, excessive coughing or fatigue.
- In the case of a high temperature the child will be sponged down with tepid water.

## **Recording of Infectious Diseases**

All illnesses, which occur within the Crèche, will be recorded and any action taken to control the spread will also be documented.

- All Communicable/Infectious diseases (child, staff or volunteer) must be reported to the Manager in writing within 24 hours.
- The Manager will send out information alerts/flyers to all within twenty four hours providing that the disease in question has been verified by a GP
- If a staff member has any of the signs or symptoms described in the child exclusion guidelines, they are to report this to the Manager. If they are diagnosed with a communicable disease they must report this to the Manager within twenty-four hours.

Parent (s) or emergency contacts will be notified to pick up their child if he/she appears to have symptoms of a communicable disease or becomes ill.