**Collection of Sick Child Policy and Fever Management**

# Rationale:

To enable continued good health and wellbeing of the children, staff , volunteers, students , visitors and parents attending The Avenue Children’s Centre and Kindergarten.

# Policy:

Children are not to be brought into the centre if they have had a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea during the previous 24 hours. If your child develops vomiting, diarrhoea or a fever whilst being educated and cared for at The Avenue Children’s Centre and Kindergarten, parents will be notified immediately and required to collect their child within one hour or as agreed by the coordinator/2IC to ensure minimal stress on the sick child, other children and staff.

# Strategies and practices:

* If a child presents with a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or over, vomiting or diarrhoea, the family will be notified immediately and asked to organise collection of the child as soon as possible. While waiting for the child to be collected, educators will implement the following procedures to reduce the child’s fever and discomfort:
  + Remove excess clothing to cool the child down (in the case of fever)
  + Offer fluids to the child
  + Encourage the child to rest
  + Monitor the child for any additional symptoms
  + Always maintain supervision of the unwell child, while keeping them separated from children who are well.
* A digital thermometer is used to take the temperature of the children.
* Educators will call the parents immediately to inform them if their child has a fever, diarrhoea or vomiting. If the parents are unavailable, emergency contact on their enrolment form will be contacted
* When caring for an ill child, remember the main ways to break the chain of infection:
  + Remind a child who is coughing or sneezing to cough or sneeze into their elbow. If the child covers their mouth with their hands, ask them to wash their hands.
  + If you wipe a child’s nose, dispose of the tissue in a plastic-lined rubbish bin and then wash your hands.
  + If you touch a child who might be ill, avoid touching other children until after you have washed your hands
  + When managing any bodily fluids ensure educators follow the body fluid cleaning procedure.
* Educators will record the illness in the child’s Illness Record including:
  + name, date of birth and age of the child
  + circumstances leading to the illness
  + the time and date when the illness occurred
  + details of the illness where possible
  + details of action taken including any first aid, administration of medication
  + details of the person who witnessed
  + the name of the person notified
  + the name and signature of the person making the report and the time and
  + date that the entry was made

# Links to other policies:

* Medical Condition Policy
* Privacy and Confidentiality of Records Keeping Policy

# Sources and further reading:

* Staying Healthy in Childcare – Preventing Infectious Disease in Early Childhood Education and Care Services 5th edition, 2013
* National Health and Medical Research Council [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/) Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Education and Care Services National Law 2010

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