

Edgeworth Child Care Centre Inc.

Managing a Child with Acute Fever Policy

Aim

Edgeworth Child Care Centre will facilitate effective care and health management of children who are taking medications for health problems, prevention and management, of acute episodes of illness, or medical emergencies by the safe administration of medication, and compliance with relevant legislation, particularly in relation to children who develop acute fever while in care.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
National Quality Standards 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Public Health Act (Amendment) 1992

Who is affected by this policy?

Children
Staff
Educator
Families
Management

Implementation

All attempts to reduce the child's temperature through first aid measures will be undertaken by an educator/staff member with approved first aid training. The following will be done by:

- Sponging
- Removal of excess clothing
- Bathing with Tepid water

Should the child's temperature continue to remain above 38 degrees Celsius without indication of it reducing, steps to administer Paracetamol will commence as follows:

- Obtain consent by telephone, fax or email regarding whether a dose of Paracetamol should be given. This is additional to any general prior agreement made by the parent/guardian.
- If the parents/guardians are unable to be contacted, the authorised nominee as nominated by the parents/guardian on the enrolment form will be contacted.
- Manage the situation as an emergency, and ask parent/guardian to collect child as soon as possible.
- Advise them to take them to the doctor.

- If parents/guardian and authorised nominee's cannot be reached, the decision to administer Paracetamol will be made by the Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor.

Administering the Paracetamol

When administering Paracetamol to a child in an emergency as consented by parent, guardian, authorised nominee or Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor, the Service will:

Only administer Paracetamol to a child for fever (38 degrees or above) and is in discomfort or pain.

- Check the Paracetamol is within its used by date before administering.
- Administer dose according to instructions on the bottle, or according to the child's emergency plan, and preferably **administer by age**, not weight. This will be done to avoid any further distress to the child by attempting to weigh them
- Only administer one dose of Paracetamol in any situation.
- Ensure the parent/guardian understands that they still need to take their child home and/or to a doctor on any occasion requiring the administration of Paracetamol.
- Ensure an administration of medication form is completed, and is signed when parent/guardian/authorised nominee arrives to collect the child.
- If a child accidentally swallows Paracetamol or inadvertently is given an excessive dose, medical advice should be sought immediately by calling **Poisons Information Line on 131126 or call for an ambulance, dial 000.**

Managing a child with a febrile convulsion

- In any circumstance when a child has had a convulsion, and even if it stops, the service will immediately **dial 000** for an ambulance and notify parent/guardian/authorised nominee.
- If emergency treatment of first aid is required for a child having a convulsion, administer first aid or treatment in accordance with the child's First Aid or Emergency Management Plan, doctors instructions, or First Aid as instructed by an approved first aid course.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
 Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
 Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011
 Work Health and Safety Act 2011
 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
 Children, Youth and Women's Health Service,
 Parenting and Child Health www.cyh.com.au Retrieved 25 10 17
 Medilife www.medilife.com.au Retrieved 25 10 17
 St John's Ambulance www.stjohn.com.au Retrieved 25 10 17
 Staying Healthy in Child Care, 5th Edition

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: 25 October 2017

Date for next review: October 2018