

# Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre

## **Health and Illness Policy**

The Health and Illness Policy of Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre is in accordance with the *Child Care and Early Years Act 2014* regulation. The policy contains guidelines that ensure the smooth operation of the Centre and the well-being of the children and staff. The main objective of the Policy is to minimize the spread of illness. It is not the responsibility of Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre to care for sick children. Parents are expected to co-operate in full with this policy for the protection of their own child, the health of all the other children at the Centre and the Centre's staff.

## **Procedures**

In order to reduce the spread of infection children should stay home if they are unwell and unable to fully participate in the program activities (both inside and outside). Sunnyside Garden Daycare staff, student and volunteers are required to follow the same procedure.

## **Parent Responsibilities**

- Parents should not send their child to the Centre if they have a fever greater than 37.8 °C nor should they administer medications to mask a fever/illness in order for their child to attend.
- Parents are required to contact the Centre by 9:00a.m. or as early as possible and inform the teacher or Director if their child will not be in for the day.
- Parents are encouraged to share information about their child's restless night, lack of appetite or other atypical behaviour.
- Parents are expected to make arrangements for the pick up of their child and to seek medical examination, if necessary.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

- Staff will observe children for symptoms of illness upon arrival and throughout the day.
- Any symptoms of ill health will be documented on a Symptoms off Ill Health form.
- Staff will document any communication (e.g., email, phone call) from a parent regarding the absence of a child due to illness in the communication log book.
- Information from parents regarding a child's atypical behaviour (e.g., child's restless night, lack of appetite, etc.) should be communicated to staff and children who have demonstrated atypical behaviour should be monitored more closely for potential signs of ill health.
- Staff will monitor the children's attendance records to identify clusters of illness.
- Staff will consult with the Director/Assistant Director to ensure that appropriate steps taken are in the best interest of the individual child, while ensuring the protection of the larger group.

A child will be excluded from care at the Centre or will not be admitted to the Centre if displaying or experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever greater than 37.8°C / 100°F
- Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Decrease or loss of taste/smell
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting
- Unexplained or undiagnosed pain
- Severe/ongoing irritability, continuous crying, lethargy, or requiring more attention than can be provided (accompanied by other health related symptoms) without compromising the care of other children in the program
- Communicable disease (known or suspected)

### **Managing Communicable Diseases**

Sunnyside Garden Daycare is required to inform Toronto Public Health and families of other children in the program of any reportable communicable diseases. Each communicable disease has its own guidelines for exclusion/treatment. Parents are informed if/when their child needs to be excluded. Examples of reportable communicable diseases include but not limited to chickenpox, measles, mumps and rubella.

If a child becomes ill while in care at the Centre:

- The child will be separated from the other children
- An adult will remain with the child at all times
- A parent or emergency person will be notified to pick up the child
- A Symptoms of Ill Health form will be completed by the staff and must be signed by the person picking up the child. Completed Symptoms of Ill Health form will be kept in the child's file.

The Director/Assistant Director or designate will:

- Ensure that staff are aware of reportable communicable diseases
- Post a list of reportable communicable diseases
- Review policy and procedure with staff at team meetings
- Consult with Toronto Public Health for support and parent information