

EXCLUSION POLICY

Adopted by Freedom Preschool on 08/06/2019

Belief Statement

Freedom Family Church Preschool believes that the families in child care and child care facility staff share the responsibility for maintaining health and preventing the spread of contagious diseases. By including illness prevention practices in daily routines, adults can limit the spread of infection. Children attending early care and education settings should be free of known infectious diseases, unless there are specific facilities for the care of a sick child.

Intent Statement

This policy was developed to establish guidelines for the child care facility and parents regarding exclusion practices as specified in NC Child Care Rule .0804 and Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 3rd Edition (CFOC3) Standards 3.6.1.1, 3.6.1.4.

Background

The North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) enforces the child care regulations regarding exclusion that all licensed child care facilities are required to meet. This policy is intended to set a higher standard than what is mandated by law. The purpose of exclusion is to limit the spread of infectious diseases and to assure that all children are able to participate in the normal daily activities.

Procedure/Practice

A facility shall not deny admission to or send a child home because of illness unless one or more of the following conditions exists. The parents, legal guardian, or other person authorized by the parents shall be notified immediately when a child has a sign or symptom requiring exclusion from the facility, as described below.

- The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in facility activities
- The illness results in need for greater care than the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children
- The child has any of the following conditions:
 - **Temperature:** armpit temperature 100° or greater accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness. Infants 4 months old and younger should be excluded for armpit temperature above 100°, even if there has not been a change in their behavior.
 - **Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness:** such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing with or without congestion, wheezing or other unusual signs - until medical evaluation allows inclusion and participation in normal daily activities.

- **Uncontrolled diarrhea:** characterized by an increased number of bowel movements compared to a child's normal pattern and with increased stool water. In general, a child will be excluded from the child care facility if he/she has more than one watery stool which was not contained by the diaper or more than two loose stools in a 24 hour period.
- **Vomiting:** if a child has two or more episodes of vomiting within a 12 hour period he/she should be excluded. The child who vomits shall be observed carefully for other signs of illness/dehydration and, if none are present, the child may continue to attend the facility.
- **Mouth sores with drooling:** will be excluded for open lesions when mouthing items or unable to control oral secretions; if able to control mouth secretions, or a physician determines the condition is non-infectious then the child may remain in care.¹
- **Rash with fever or behavior change:** until a healthcare provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease and child may participate in normal daily activities.

Suspected or known infectious illness such as:

- Purulent conjunctivitis: pink or red eye with white or yellow discharge until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated. Pink or red eye with clear watery eye discharge and without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness should not be excluded from the facility.
- Scabies, head lice or other infestation: after treatment has been initiated and nits removed (option: or nit free).
- Tuberculosis: until a health care provider indicates that the child can attend child care.
- Impetigo/MRSA: until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated and all sores are dry or can be kept covered.
- Chicken pox: until 6 days after onset of rash or until all sores have dried and crusted.
- Pertussis: until 5 days of antibiotic treatment has been completed to prevent an infection. *
- Mumps: until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling. *
- Strep throat: until 24 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever.
- Hepatitis A: until 1 week after onset of jaundice or immune serum globulin has been given. *
- Measles: until 6 days after onset of rash. *
- Rubella: until 6 days after onset of rash. *

Exclude until a doctor has determined the illness to be non-infectious. Written documentation must be provided. Those marked with a * are reportable to the state. The time of return to child care may be determined by the local health department. A complete list of communicable diseases can be obtained from your local health department. For sickness involving diarrhea, in order to prevent an intestinal illness outbreak from spreading, any symptomatic child should remain out of child care center

until they have been symptom free for 48 hours unless they are cleared to return in writing, by his/her doctor.

- The child whose illness requires that he/she be excluded from the facility shall be given appropriate attention to his/her needs. A child with uncontrolled vomiting or diarrhea shall be separated from other children until the child's parent or guardian arrives to assume care of the child. ^{1,3}
- Parents whose children are not ill will be notified of contagious disease exposure. When appropriate, pregnant caregivers and parents should be encouraged to notify their obstetrician of their exposure. (Chickenpox, Fifth's disease, rubella)^{1,3}
- When there is a vaccine-preventable illness at the facility, children who have not had the vaccination for the illness may be excluded for the duration of the incubation period by the local health department. ²
- A physician's note may be required before a child is allowed to return to child care.^{1,2}
- The director of the facility or designee will have final authority for deciding whether a child will remain at child care (child should be able to participate in normal daily activities).

Application

This policy applies to all children, families, visitors, volunteers, and staff.

Communication

- Staff will receive training during new employee orientation and yearly. Staff must read this policy found in the employee handbook.
- Families will receive this information in the Freedom FAmily Preschool HANdbook as another attachment regarding updated policy changes.
- Receive a copy of the policy and will sign receipt of policy.
- This can also be found on our information board

References

1. Caring for Our Children: National HEalth and SAfety Performance STandards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, 3rd Edition (CFOC3), Standards: 3.6.1.1, 3.6.1.4
2. Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools, AAP, 2005
3. NC Child Care Rule: 10A NCAC 09 .0804

Attachments

Sample letters to families; Notice of possible exposure of non-ill children to infectious disease

Review/Approval

This policy will be reviewed and approved by:

Owner/Director

Date

Child Care Health Consultant

Date

DCDE Licensing Consultant

Date

Other as applicable

Date

Annual Review Date _____