

IMMUNISATION POLICY

Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd respects parent's right to choose immunisation for their child and understand that not all children will be immunised who attend the service. Children in groups are prone to picking up infections and it can spread quickly. It is our belief immunisation gives a child protection from disease as well as protecting others around them especially those too young for immunisation.

Principle

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 and the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework.

Why vaccinate

Preventing an illness is preferable to treating it once it has developed. There are now many safe and effective vaccines against many serious and deadly illnesses. Some are given routinely to all the population, others only to individuals thought to be at high risk of certain infections. All children attending a childcare facility should be appropriately immunised. The principle of immunisation is simple: it gives the body a memory of infection without the risk of natural infection.

Procedure:

- It is a legal obligation that we keep an up to date record of all children's immunisations on their file. Therefore, at enrolment parents are requested to provide us with an up to date copy of their child's immunisation passport or record card.
- The immunisation passport should continue to be updated in the childcare facility as the child receives his/her immunisations.
- Parents of children who are not appropriately immunised should be informed of the risk to their children and other children.
- The record contains the following information:
 - Name and date of birth of child
 - Age at which immunisation is due and date given
 - Date vaccination record was sighted
 - Where/ by whom it was given
 - Whether the child is up to date with immunisations
 - If the child has not been immunised, the reasons why, e.g. parental choice/ underlying medical condition.
- The service will keep a record of children who have not received immunisation. Should there be an infectious outbreak all parents and staff will be notified in writing and, where necessary, verbally.
- It is the responsibility of the family to keep the service up to date with the child's immunisations.
- It is important to note that from time-to-time, the service may have pregnant staff members and or children with compromised immune systems to whom being exposed to an infectious illness could be life threatening or harmful to an unborn child. Under these circumstances, management reserves the right to refuse entry to any child who has not been fully vaccinated.

Chickenpox

What is Chickenpox

Chickenpox is an infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It causes an itchy rash with small, fluid-filled blisters. Chickenpox is highly contagious to people who haven't had the disease or been vaccinated against it. The itchy blister rash caused by chickenpox infection appears 10 to 21 days after exposure to the virus and usually lasts about 5 to 10 days.

Vaccination

The chickenpox vaccine is not part of the routine childhood vaccination programme in Ireland at the time of writing this policy, however, you can pay to get the vaccine from your GP. The chickenpox vaccine is a safe, effective way to prevent chickenpox and its possible complications and can be given to anyone over 12 months old. Two doses of the vaccine are needed, at least 4 weeks apart.

If choosing to vaccinate your child

The varicella-zoster vaccine is a live attenuated viral vaccine and even though the risk of transmitting the vaccine virus is considered low, a vaccinee can be contagious if a presumed vaccine-related rash appears 7-25 days after vaccination.

Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd reserves the right to refuse entry to any person with a presumed vaccine-related rash for the duration of the rash as direct contact with immunocompromised persons, nonimmune pregnant women and their newborn in the first week of life and non-immune babies could result in these individuals contracting chickenpox.

Communication

All parents/guardians are informed of the policy and procedures regarding immunisation on enrolment. Staff members will check with parents that they have read and understood the policy and provide any assistance needed.

A summary of this policy will be included in the parent handbook. This policy will also be reviewed with staff members at induction and annual staff training.

A copy of all policies will be available during all hours of operation to staff members and parents in the Policy Folder located in the setting.

Parents/guardians may receive a copy of the full policy and procedures at any time upon request. Parents/guardians and all relevant staff members will receive written notification of any updates to this policy.

This policy was adopted by **Over the Rainbow Early Learning Centre Ltd** on:

Date: _____

Manager

co-Manager

Review Date: _____

Created: Aug20