



The National Training Institute
for Child Care Health Consultants

Caring for Children Who are Ill



- Your name
- Your agency
- Date of training



Introductions/Icebreaker

- Find a partner.
- Take 3 minutes to discuss with your partner your preferences when you don't feel well:
 - What you like to eat
 - Where you like to be
 - Who you like to see
 - What you like to wear
- Be prepared to share with the large group.



Training Objectives

- Describe general and specific guidelines for exclusion.
- Identify alternative care arrangements.
- Discuss what topics should be included in written policies.
- Understand perspectives of parents, child care teachers/caregivers, and health care providers.



The Role of the CCHC

- 3 main responsibilities
 - Educating parents and child care staff about exclusion
 - Providing information about options for care of a child who is ill or temporarily disabled
 - Assisting with development and implementation of policies



Children Get Sick!

- Children in out-of-home care experience a higher incidence of infections than children who are cared for in their own home.
- Temporary disabilities such as burns, fractures, or surgery may require children to be excluded from child care.
- This has a significant impact on the field of child care.



What is Exclusion?

- When a child is sent home or prevented from attending his/her regular child care program because of illness.
- Child care facilities commonly require parents or guardians to come get their children if they become ill during the day.
- Usually children may not return until they are asymptomatic.



What are the criteria for exclusion?

- Child care staff, parents, and health care providers may not agree.
- Often, the decision to exclude is based on the perceived seriousness of the child's illness rather than evidence of serious illness (Richardson, Elliman et al. 2001).



What about Fever?

- Fever is widely used as an indicator for sending children home from child care facilities.
- It is NOT a reliable indicator of severity of illness.
- A child with fever should be allowed to remain in child care as long as he is able to participate comfortably in the center's activities (*CFOC* 3.6.1.1, 3rd ed., 2011).
- This also applies to children with minor illnesses other than fever.



Why exclude children who are ill?

- Child care staff want to reduce the spread of infectious disease.
- The child may require extra attention and increase the caregiver's workload.
- The teacher might not feel qualified to care for the child.
- Staff might not know enough about mild illnesses and temporary disabilities.
- Teachers might think that the child will feel best at home with a parent or other caregiver.



Exclusion Criteria

- It inhibits the child from participating comfortably in normal activities.
- It requires greater care than is available in the child care setting.
- It poses a risk of spread of harmful diseases to others.^{3.6.1.1}



Exclusion Criteria for Respiratory Illness

A child may be excluded if he/she has a fever along with behavior or symptoms such as:

- Lethargy
- Uncontrolled coughing
- Inexplicable irritability or persistent crying
- Difficulty breathing
- Wheezing
- Other signs or behavior unusual for that child



Exclusion Criteria for Gastroenteritis

- Inexplicable bloody stools
- Abdominal pain for more than two hours
- Intermittent abdominal pain accompanied by fever or other signs or symptoms
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

- Children with Hepatitis A should also be kept out of child care until a health care provider confirms that it is safe for them to return.



Exclusion Criteria for Diseases Spread Through Skin-to-Skin Contact or Body Fluids

- Children exhibiting the following signs or symptoms may be excluded.
 - Mouth sores with drooling
 - Rash with fever or behavior change
 - Impetigo
 - Draining boils or skin lesions that cannot be covered by a dressing
 - Purulent conjunctivitis
 - Scabies
 - Shingles



Types of Care for Children Who are Ill

- Care in the child's usual facility in a special area for children who are ill;
- Care in a separate small family child care home or center that serves only children with illness or temporary disabilities;
- Care by a child care caregiver/teacher in the child's own home.



Child's Own Facility

Some facilities have special “get well” rooms that allow the child to remain in a familiar environment.

- **Advantages**

- Care is immediately available

- **Disadvantages**

- Expensive for child care facility
- May require additional charge
- Extra space and staff needed



Separate Settings

- Advantages
 - Parents do not have to miss work
- Disadvantages
 - Caregiver and environment are unfamiliar to the child
 - Very expensive



Child's Own Home

- Advantages
 - Familiar environment, familiar caretaker
 - Child does not have to leave home
 - Restful, individual care
- Disadvantages
 - Missed work/wages for parents/guardians



Activity: Exclusion Criteria Quiz Game

- Break into groups of 4-5.
- Select a group leader and a name for your group. Tell me your group's name.
- If you think you know the answer to a question, have the group leader raise their hand.
- Good luck!



Written Policies

The CCHC might

- Identify need for a written policy.
- Help write the policy or review and revise the policy.
- Make sure parents are involved.
- Communicate policies to parents.

Communicating with Parents



- Establish a protocol for referencing the exclusion policy whenever a child is excluded due to illness.
- Develop a lending library.



National Standards

- *Caring for Our Children* and the American Academy of Pediatrics have national standards and recommendations.
- All child care facilities should have a form for medication consent and a medication administration log.
- Staff should be trained in medication administration.



Differing Perspectives - Parents

- Parents are concerned about their child and want to make sure he/she has the care that he/she needs.
- Parents must balance caring for their child with job related demands, such as
 - How much flexibility their employer will allow
 - Availability of paid leave
 - Meeting work deadlines
 - Fear of losing their jobs



Differing Perspectives – Child Care Staff

- Child care teachers/caregivers:
 - Must balance their desire to provide care to the child who is ill with the need to provide care for all children.
 - May be concerned about reducing spread of infectious disease.
 - Have to decide if exclusion is necessary.



Differing Perspectives – Health Care Providers

- Primary concern is for health and well being of the child
- May feel pressure from the parent to allow child to return to care
- May not know enough about child care facility to recommend return to care



Activity : Differing Perspectives Case Scenario

- Find the Case Scenario in your packet.
- Take 5 minutes to read and answer the questions.
- Share your ideas.

Purpose of Exclusion Criteria



- Decrease the spread of diseases to other children and staff.
- Provide for the child's comfort and well-being.
- Ensure that children who are ill or temporarily disabled receive the attention they need.



CCHCs can help by:

- Helping parents and staff understand and access care available to children who are ill;
- Being aware of advantages and disadvantages of alternative types of care; and
- Providing health information, education resources, and access to health consultation to the caregiver of the child who is ill.



Learning Assessment

- Find the *Children Who are Ill* Circle Map in your participant's packet.
- Working with a partner, take 5 minutes to write on the Circle Map all the new things that you learned today about children who are ill.



Evaluation

- Please take 5 minutes to complete.
- Thank you!