



BRISBANIA BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE INC.

HEALTH

TITLE: MANAGING A CHILD WITH ACUTE FEVER

Status: Current

Date of Origin: Jun 08

Policy No: P33

Last Reviewed: Nov 2024

Outcome:

Effective care and management of children developing acute fever whilst in care will be facilitated by appropriate first aid measures and administration of medication if required.

Background Information:

- Evidence suggests that physical steps taken to lower a child's temperature such as removing excess clothing are more effective than administering paracetamol.
- It is important to ensure the child is not dehydrated

Policy Statements:

- If it is suspected that a child has a temperature a digital thermometer on the child's forehead will be used. Note: A temperature of 38.5°C or more in older infants and children is considered high.
- Should a child have a temperature of 38°C or above, methods to lower the temperature such as removal of excess clothing, and the administration of fluids to prevent dehydration are to be used.
- Parents/guardians or emergency contacts will be telephoned and staff will notify them of the child's condition. Staff will ask whether the child has been given paracetamol earlier in the day.
- The parent/guardian or emergency contact will be required to collect the child from the service as soon as possible (usually within 30 minutes). Staff will advise the parent/guardian or emergency contact to take the child to the doctor.
- Should a child have a fever accompanied by abnormal behaviour or symptoms or signs that indicate a possible severe illness (such as lethargy, drowsiness, severe or prolonged coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, unusual irritability or crying) and is unable to participate in normal activities paracetamol will not be administered in any circumstances (administration could result in the masking of a serious medical condition which requires urgent and appropriate medical attention). In the event the parent/guardian or emergency contacts cannot be contacted staff will follow emergency procedures and contact 000 for an ambulance.



- Staff will complete a Sick – Temperature form for any situation where a child develops an acute illness or fever. Supervisor will monitor child, record temperature on sick form. If temperature is above 38.5 degrees parents will be contacted by phone for child to be collected. If time frame for collection is longer than 30 mins verbal permission to administer correct dosage of paracetamol will be obtained. Supervisor will administer paracetamol to child only under these circumstances with a second staff member check dosage and signing off on medication form. The original copy will be given and a duplicate copy will be placed on the child's file. Only one dose of paracetamol will be administered.
- The Supervisor may request that the parent provide a doctor's certificate before accepting the child back into the Centre.
- Paracetamol will be kept in the *AllergyBuddy* medication panel for onset of high fever whilst at the service.
- **Managing a child who has had a febrile convulsion while in care:**
 - In any circumstance when a child has had a convulsion (regardless of whether it is a febrile convulsion or a seizure due to another cause), and even it stops, staff will immediately dial 000 for an ambulance and notify the parent/guardian or emergency contact person.
 - If emergency treatment or first aid is required for a child having a convulsion, staff will administer first aid treatment in accordance with the child's First Aid or Emergency Management Plan, or a doctor's instructions, or the ambulance services instructions. If these are not immediately available recognised first aid steps will be taken as reflected in staff senior first aid training.
 - Should a Doctor prescribe the regular administration of paracetamol or ibuprofen for reducing the risk of febrile convulsion as part of their Emergency Management Plan a Doctor's Certificate detailing this is required.

Acknowledgements

*Network of Community Activities 'Policies in Practice, A handbook of day to day policies for OOSH Centres' – www.netoosh.org.au

Gosford City Council - www.gosford.nsw.gov.au

□ NSW Department of Health, NSW Public Health Unit - www.health.nsw.gov.au

□ Health and Safety in Children's Centres Model Policies and Practices 2nd edition Revised November 2003 - www.csnsw.org.au

□ St. John Ambulance Australia - www.sjaa.com.au

□ Vital First Aid - www.1staid.com.au



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