Case 1
The teacher in the toddler room notices that 20-month-old Suzie is a little less active than normal and has a runny nose, though she has been playing on and off. She is still participating in various activities. The teacher checks her temperature by mouth and it is 101°F.

- Does Suzie need to be excluded? Why or why not?
- Is there an exclusion policy that covers this?
- What is difficult about this case?

Daily Health Check
- Routine of greeting parents/children every day
- Form of communication between parents and caregiver/teacher
- May enable caregivers/teachers to identify illness while parents are still present
What to Do When Kids Get Sick After the Daily Health Check?

- Monitor children for participation in activities, need for additional care.
- If participation decreases or need for care increases, check for other symptoms.
- If other symptoms are present:
  - Make a decision about exclusion.
  - Notify parents.
  - Care for child until the parent arrives.

Video: What to Do When Kids Get Sick After the Daily Health Check

Outbreaks

- Sudden rise in the occurrence of a disease.
- Notify your child care health consultant or health department.
- Consult Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools for more information.
Exclusion

• How do you make decisions about exclusion?
• What are characteristics of good exclusion criteria?
• Is exclusion an effective way to reduce transmission of germs?
• What are the reasons to exclude children from out-of-home child care?

Reasons for Exclusion

The caregiver/teacher should exclude if the illness:
• Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities
• Results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children
• Specific disease, symptom or condition
• Other reasons?
  – Child needs to be diagnosed
  – Child is a danger to others — Many of these conditions can be harmful to other children or require treatment with medications.

Symptoms Versus Diseases

• Children develop symptoms first but don’t yet have a diagnosis
• Caregivers/teachers SHOULD NOT need to make the diagnosis of a specific disease
• Caregivers/teachers DO need to recognize symptoms for which exclusion is necessary
Video: Symptoms and Diseases Requiring Exclusion

Symptoms of Severe Illness
Call 911 (and the parents)
- Fever with difficulty breathing or abnormal skin color (very pale, blue, or very pink)
- Child acting very strangely, much less alert or withdrawn, lethargic, or unresponsive
- Difficulty breathing, unable to speak
- Skin or lips that look blue, purple, or gray
- Rhythmic jerking of arms/legs (seizure)
- Vomiting blood
- Large volume of blood in the stools
- Stiff neck with headache and fever
- Suddenly spreading purple or red rash

Symptoms of Urgent Conditions
Urgent conditions don’t need EMS if parent notification and medical care can be achieved in an hour or so
- Fever in a child who looks more than mildly ill
- Unexplained irritability
- Fever in a child under 60 days old
- Severe vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Animal bite that breaks the skin
- Venomous bites or stings
- Injury like a break to the skin that doesn’t hold together
Symptoms Requiring Exclusion
• Fever WITH behavior change
• Diarrhea (in some cases)
• Blood in stool
• Vomiting more than 2 times in 24 hours
• Abdominal pain (in some cases)
• Drooling with mouth sores

Some of these symptoms will require a visit to a health care professional, but not all

Child Develops New Symptoms
• Often children develop new symptoms after the daily health check
• What are your responsibilities to the affected child and parents? To the other children, and the child care staff?
• When should you notify other parents?
• When should you require a health visit?
• When should you notify the health consultant or health department?
Child Already Has a Diagnosis

- Sometimes children return to care with a diagnosis from a health care professional
- What is your responsibility to other child care staff, children, and for the affected child?
- When should you notify other parents? How?
- When should you notify the health consultant or health department?
Conditions Which DO NOT Need Exclusion

• Many symptoms/conditions do not need exclusion (but frequently are excluded)
• List these conditions

Goals of Exclusion

• Goal is NOT usually to reduce spread of mild infections since symptoms occur after germs have already been spread
• Ensure children who cannot participate or need more care than possible are at home
• Ensure children have adequate supervision and teacher/caregiver to child ratios are maintained
• Keep certain serious conditions out of the program (these are uncommon)
Summary

- Exclusion decisions should be based on written criteria
  - Rules are confusing and vary a lot
  - Find your state exclusion criteria at National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care
  - Use Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools

- Three main reasons for exclusion
  - Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities
  - Results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children
  - Specific symptoms or conditions

- Decisions about who to notify can be determined by checking Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools and consulting with local public health authorities as needed.

Questions?

References


- Aronson SS, Shope RT. Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide. 2nd ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2009 (Slides 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24)

Module 3: Recognizing and Managing Infectious Diseases

Objectives

A. Knowledge

Each participant will be able to:

1. Identify the 3 primary reasons for exclusion, and know where to find and how to use the list of specific conditions that require exclusion.

2. Identify 2 reasons why exclusion does not reduce the spread of most common germs.

3. Explain at least 1 goal of exclusion.

4. Explain why consistent application of exclusion criteria creates clear expectations of families and child care staff, and a healthier environment.

5. Explain how to effectively manage an outbreak of an infectious disease and which people should be involved.

B. Attitude

Each participant will be able to:

1. Commit to implementing daily health checks in the child care facility.

2. Feel comfortable using a resource, such as Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools, to determine proper management of infectious disease strategies.

C. Behavior

Each participant will:

1. Demonstrate proficiency using Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools and Caring for Our Children (CFOC) to research a disease based on symptoms.

2. Demonstrate proficiency using Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools and CFOC to research a disease based on a diagnosis.
Module 3: Recognizing and Managing Infectious Diseases

References


- Aronson SS, Shope TR. *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide*. 2nd ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2009 (Slides 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24)