Conduct of Daily Health Check

Every day, a trained staff member should conduct a health check of each child. This health check should be conducted as soon as possible after the child enters the childcare facility and whenever a change in the child’s behavior or appearance is noted while that child is in care. The health check should address:

1. Reported or observed illness or injury affecting the child or family members since the last date of attendance;
2. Reported or observed changes in behavior of the child (such as lethargy or irritability) or in the appearance (e.g., sad) of the child from the previous day at home or the previous day’s attendance at childcare;
3. Skin rashes, impetigo, itching or scratching of the skin, itching or scratching of the scalp, or the presence of one or more live crawling lice;
4. A temperature check if the child appears ill (a daily screening temperature check is not recommended);
5. Other signs or symptoms of illness and injury (such as drainage from eyes, vomiting, diarrhea, cuts/lacerations, pain, or feeling ill).

The caregiver/teacher should gain information necessary to complete the daily health check by direct observation of the child, by querying the parent/guardian, and, where applicable, by conversation with the child.

**RATIONALE**

Daily health checks seek to identify potential concerns about a child’s health including recent illness or injury in the child and the family. Health checks may serve to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases in childcare settings by identifying children who should be excluded and enable the caregivers/teachers to plan for necessary care while the child is in care at the facility.

**COMMENTS**

The daily health check should be performed in a relaxed and comfortable manner that respects the family’s culture as well as the child’s body and feelings. The childcare health consultant should train the caregiver/teacher(s) in conducting a health check. The items in the standard can serve as a checklist to guide learning the procedure until it becomes routine.

The obtaining of information from the parent/guardian should take place at the time of transfer of care from the parent/guardian to the staff of the childcare facility. If this exchange of information happens outside the facility (e.g., when the child is put on a bus), the facility should use an alternative means to accurately convey important information. Handwritten notes, electronic communications, health checklists, and/or daily logs are examples of how parents/guardians and staff can exchange information when face-to-face is not possible.

**TYPE OF FACILITY**

Family Child Care Home