Windridge Park ChildCare Centre

Guidelines for What Constitutes an Ill Child

There are three important issues to be considered when deciding if a child is too ill to attend Windridge Park Preschool:

1.   The protection of other children from communicable disease.
2.   The comfort and safety of the child who is ill.
3.   The capacity of the preschool to look after the ill child.

With these issues in mind, the following guidelines are suggested:
1.   Children with an afebrile (having no fever) upper respiratory infection need not be excluded in order to protect other children. Asymptomatic (or prodromal-a symptom of the potential onset of a disease) carriage of respiratory viruses is so common that it does not make sense to single out those who are chronically ill for seclusion.
2.   Children on antibiotics who are afebrile and otherwise well need not be excluded.
3.   Children with suspected or known measles, mumps, rubella or chickenpox should be excluded until the child is non-infectious. Children with generalized rash and fever are suspect of having measles and should be excluded pending diagnosis.
4.   In addition to the illnesses mentioned in (3), there may be less common communicable diseases which could necessitate exclusion for a period of time. In cases of diagnosed communicable diseases, the preschool will consult with the Community Health Nurse at North Shore Health.
5.   Any child too ill to physically participate in normal activities at the preschool should be excluded.
6.   Children with a chronic symptom such as a persistent cough or fever warrant medical evaluation. Once appropriate medical evaluation has been obtained, the child need not be excluded from the preschool unless the conditions described in (3), (4) or (5) apply.
7.   Whenever a child develops new symptoms of illness, whether mentioned above or not, or has a worsening of symptoms, the parent will be notified and the child taken home.
8.   Difficulties in interpreting or carrying out these guidelines will be discussed with the Community Health Nurse.