

Day Nurseries Digest

Issue 27
December 2011

www.porcupinehu.on.ca

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR DAY CARE OPERATORS

Inspector's Note

This edition of the Day Nurseries Digest discusses illness among children, prevention of illness, and procedures when an illness occurs. Another useful resource is the Well Beings: A Guide to Health Care in Child Care, which can be found at <http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/wellbeings/>.

This is YOUR newsletter and your input is necessary so that we can provide you with the information that you need and want the most.

Drop us a line -- we welcome your comments, concerns or questions.

Health Inspection Services
1-800-461-1818 or
protect@porcupinehu.on.ca



Communicable Diseases in Day Cares

In day nurseries, there can be a higher incidence of illness for many reasons including:

- Children are in a group setting in close proximity to each other;
- Children's immune systems are still developing;
- Children touch each other often when they play;
- Young children explore by putting things in their mouths, and other children share or touch those objects;
- Children still in diapers can spread certain infections much more readily than children who are toilet trained; and
- Young children need a lot of hands-on care by staff.

It is especially important to practice good hand hygiene, proper diapering procedures, proper cleaning and disinfection procedures for equipment, sand and water tables, toys, costumes, games, and inspect playgrounds prior to activities in order to help prevent the spread of infection.

Adapted from: Well Beings: A guide to health in childcare, 3rd edition, Canadian Paediatric Society

When children or staff become ill, proper procedures must be followed to prevent or reduce the number of other children and staff who become ill. These procedures depend on the illness but can include: increasing cleaning and disinfecting procedures, excluding the ill individuals from attending or working at the day nursery, and reporting illnesses to the Porcupine Health Unit.

Details related to common childhood illnesses, exclusion guidelines and reporting illnesses, as well as prevention methods can be found in "Common Childhood Communicable Diseases" produced by the Porcupine Health Unit. This document can be accessed online at: <http://www.porcupinehu.on.ca/Schools/documents/CommonChildhoodCommunicableDiseases-EN.pdf>.

Chlorine Dilution Calculator

Sometimes it is hard to know how much chlorine must be diluted in a certain amount of water for proper disinfection, but Public Health Ontario has made it that much easier. They've created an online chlorine calculator, which can calculate how much chlorine must be added to water by entering the total amount of solution required, the desired concentration, and the concentration of bleach being used. The online dilution calculator and instructions can be found at: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/dilution-calculator.html>.