### Purpose

An important step in preventing the spread of disease or infection is early detection so that children who may be ill can be separated from other children.

### Policy

The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (36(1)) requires that: Every licensee shall ensure that a daily observation is made of each child receiving child care in each child care centre it operates… before the child begins to associate with other children in order to detect possible symptoms of ill health.

If a staff member suspects that a child is, or may be, in need of protection, they must report this to the local children’s aid society in accordance with section 72 of the *Child and Family Services Act*. (see Child Abuse Policy)

### Procedure

1. The staff will look each child over quickly but systematically as they arrive, utilizing the ABC Daily Health Assessment format. Observe A for Appearance, B for Behaviour, and C by Communication.

**A = APPEARANCE**

By general inspection look for any unusual signs and symptoms outside the expected for each child.

* Skin colour pale or flushed
* Rash or skin eruptions
* Runny nose or cough
* Reddened eyes/eye discharge
* Bruises or unusual marks

**B = BEHAVIOUR**

Observe for any variation in the child’s behaviour as it is the best clue In determining a child’s state of health.

* Listlessness or very tired
* Cranky or fussy
* Reluctant to separate from parent
* Crying and irritable

**C = COMMUNICATION**

Ask the parents if there has been any change in the child’s health status since they were last at the centre.

* Has the child slept well?
* Any changes in their usual routine since they last attended?
* Have they had any medication in the last 12 hours?
* Do the parents have any concerns?

1. If the childcare program has had a known incident of head lice the parent will be asked to remain until the child’s hair has been checked (see Head Lice policy).
2. If a staff member suspects a child has suffered abuse a report will be made (see Child Abuse policy).
3. A parent or emergency contact will be called if any health concerns are detected/observed after the parent has left. This may be only to ask some questions or the parent may be required to pick the child up.
4. Using the appropriate sign–in sheet staff will mark an “A”, “B”, or “C” for any concerns. A ✓ will indicate there are no health concerns. (see appendix)