A Daily Health Check

WHAT IS IT?
A Daily Health Check is a quick way for parents and child care providers to check for a change in a child's health and well-being. Does the child act differently from usual? Does the child look different from usual? Doing a Daily Health Check can help prevent illness and disease from entering a child care facility.

WHY DO IT?
A Daily Health Check can help the caregivers establish what is normal for each child and what is abnormal for each child. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to transition the children into child care. The sooner sick children care helps the caregivers establish what is normal for each child and what is abnormal for each child. It can also reduce the spread of illness or disease.

WHO DOES IT?
Caregivers do the Daily Health Check, using a checklist. Child Care Health Consultants can provide training on the Daily Health Check for the caregivers. The caregiver should perform the Daily Health Check in a relaxed and comfortable manner that respects the family's culture as well as the child's body and feelings.

WHEN TO DO IT?
Caregivers should perform a Daily Health Check when a child first arrives at the child care facility and when the parent is still present. It can be repeated periodically throughout the day as necessary. (National Health and Safety Performance Standard 3.001*)

HOW IS IT DONE?
Start by getting on the child’s eye level. Then

LOOK – for signs and symptoms of illness
- Changes in mood or behavior
- Change in activity or energy level, listlessness or difficulty moving
- Runny nose or eyes, drainage from open sores
- Skin changes such as a rash, swelling, bumps or redness
- Scratching, tugging at a part of the body or holding a body part

LISTEN – for complaints and unusual sounds from the child that might indicate they are not feeling well. Listen to what a parent shares about the child or other illness in the family.
- Groans
- Continual crying or unusual fussiness
- Wheezing, sneezing, labored breathing
- Hoarseness
- Coughing

FEEL – for a change in the skin that might indicate a fever or dehydration.
- Moistness
- Unusual warmth
- Skin does not spring back when slightly pinched

SMELL – for unusual odors that might indicate an underlying disease
- Fruity sweet breath
- Foul breath
- Unusual urine or bowel movement odors

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, the child may be ill.

At the beginning of the day when the parent is still at the facility, caregivers and parents can decide together on a plan of action to support the child's health. If the child needs to be excluded from care the parent can leave with the child and tend to the child's health needs.

If the child becomes ill during the day, the caregiver should notify the child's parents and decide together on how to care for the child. Children who are ill or contagious must be excluded from child care based on the NC Child Care Rule .0804. Parents may need to consult the child's health care provider before a child can return to child care.

Any time child abuse or neglect is suspected, a report must be filed with DSS.


References:

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