

## Littlehampton Preschool

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Dear Parents / Caregivers

2/2/2017

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children and others in the community by reducing the spread of disease. It also helps to protect those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons from being exposed to preventable diseases.

Your child's immune system is particularly important as the early years is the time when their immune system is still developing.

With this in mind most DECD early childhood services currently ask parents to show that their child has received the <u>scheduled childhood immunisations</u> during the enrolment process. From 2017 that request is being consistently applied across the state.

This means that families with children enrolled in a DECD preschool, rural care, occasional care, family day care or respite care service are asked to provide immunisation evidence to their service by the end of term 1 2017.

Please show your service a copy of your child's:

- SA Child Health and Development record (known as the "Blue Book") or
- Australian Immunisation Childhood register (ACIR) history statement.

If your child is not up to date with their immunisations and there is an occurrence of a vaccine preventable disease at the service, then your child will be asked to stay away from the service for a period of time, known as an exclusion period.

The exclusion period is determined by SA Health and is designed to protect those who are at risk of getting the disease and those who may be able to pass the disease onto others.

If we do not have evidence of your child's immunisation status and there is an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease, your child will be treated as not up to date with their immunisations and excluded.

While individuals, families and public health are ultimately responsible for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, government early childhood services also have a role to play in preventing the spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-operation and support to protect the children at our service and, more broadly, the South Australian community. Further information is available on www.decd.sa.gov.au.

Regards Jenny Lewis Principal Evelyn Lam Lead Teacher