1-21-2008

Chittenden County Child Care Providers & Conflict Implementing Sick Child Guidelines

Shahin Foroutan
Joanna Gell
Hui-Shan Hsu
Elena V. Simon
Justin Smith

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp_gallery

Part of the Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons, and the Health Services Research Commons

Recommended Citation

Foroutan, Shahin; Gell, Joanna; Hsu, Hui-Shan; Simon, Elena V.; Smith, Justin; Threlkeld, Kirsten; Weinberg, Nicholas; Flanders, Meghan; and Sullivan, Jillian, "Chittenden County Child Care Providers & Conflict Implementing Sick Child Guidelines" (2008). *Public Health Projects, 2008-present*. Book 24.
http://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp_gallery/24
Authors
Shahin Foroutan, Joanna Gell, Hui-Shan Hsu, Elena V. Simon, Justin Smith, Kirsten Threlkeld, Nicholas Weinberg, Meghan Flanders, and Jillian Sullivan
Chittenden County Child Care Providers & Conflict Implementing Sick Child Guidelines

Shahin Foroutan, Joanna Gell, Hui-Shan Hsu MPH, Elena V. Simon, Justin Smith, Kirsten Threlkeld, Nicholas Weinberg, Meghan Flanders, Jillian Sullivan MD.

Introduction
Nationwide, 61% of children under age five are enrolled in a form of non-parental care (1). Problems arise when a child becomes sick and is not able to attend daycare or has to be sent home. Parents must either miss work to care for their child or find someone else to care for them. Since there is stress surrounding taking time off, and because the criteria used to exclude children from care can be ambiguous, parents may feel that their child doesn’t need to be sent home (2). Each child care provider has to set up exclusion criteria that meet state licensing requirements. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) developed exclusion guidelines specifically for childcare settings in 2006 (3), but most daycare providers and pediatricians are unaware of its existence (1). Conflicts occur when there are differences in opinion on the child’s health status between the child care provider and the parents or the child’s pediatrician (4).

Objectives
• Determine whether daycare providers in Chittenden County are aware of the AAP exclusion guidelines
• Investigate conflict experienced by child care providers when excluding children from care.

Methods
• This cross sectional study surveyed all child care providers within Chittenden County Vermont known to Child Care Resource as of September 2007(N=349).
• A 12 question survey was compiled by the members of our group. Anonymous, self administered surveys were collected from October to November 2007.
• Due to incomplete questionnaires, for specific questions, the samples size varied from 42 to 91. Statistical analysis was performed using Fischer’s two-tailed exact testing (p = 0.05).

Results

Guidelines used to create sick child exclusion criteria:
The majority of child care providers were not familiar with AAP exclusion guidelines for excluding sick children from care (Table 2a). Nineteen percent of providers indicated that they used AAP exclusion guidelines as their own illness guidelines (Table 2b).

Table 1: Demographics of Chittenden County Child Care Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>Mean Years of Operation</th>
<th>Mean Number of Children/Daycare Program</th>
<th>Mean Number of Children/Registered Homes</th>
<th>Providers with AAP illness guidelines n (%)</th>
<th>Providers with Vermont Licensing Regulation n (%)</th>
<th>Providers with AAP exclusion guidelines n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Center</td>
<td>40 (40%)</td>
<td>18 (1.6)</td>
<td>8.3 (2.9)</td>
<td>31.4 (1.4)</td>
<td>38 (97.5%)</td>
<td>52 (128%)</td>
<td>65 (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Home</td>
<td>51 (50%)</td>
<td>13 (1.1)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.3)</td>
<td>7.4 (0.9)</td>
<td>47 (95.1%)</td>
<td>57 (114%)</td>
<td>62 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75 (100%)</td>
<td>109 (238%)</td>
<td>127 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SD = Standardized Error

Table 2a. Familiarity with AAP Illness guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Familiarity</th>
<th>Child care providers n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neve heard of AAP</td>
<td>11 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heard of AAP, but unfamiliar with guidelines</td>
<td>47 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat familiar with guidelines</td>
<td>25 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiar with guidelines</td>
<td>7 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2b. Reasons why child care providers exclude children from care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for exclusion from care</th>
<th>Licensed Providers who sent children home n (%)</th>
<th>Registered Homes n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For fear of other children becoming sick</td>
<td>27 (90%)</td>
<td>21 (90%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because parents could not provide specific medical care</td>
<td>12 (40%)</td>
<td>8 (35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because children’s needs could not be met</td>
<td>21 (73%)</td>
<td>14 (59%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p = 0.035

Discussion
• The majority of respondents have insufficient awareness of AAP illness guidelines.
• Licensed child care centers
• Experience significantly more conflict with parents when excluding children from care
• Are more likely to refuse care for children because of parents unable to provide care for the child due to their own work obligations (see Figure 1).

Less common reasons for conflict included parents disagreeing with the decision to send children home and pediatric clearance (64 and 79%, respectively) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Reasons why child care providers experience conflict when excluding children from care.

When children were sent home from child care, significantly more licensed centers than registered homes reported experiencing conflict with parents in the previous month (41% and 14%, respectively; p=0.042).

References