



## Handout #15.1

# Health History and Immunization Policy for Children

You need to know the health history and medical emergency information for every child in your care. When a child enrolls in your child care setting, you should find out:

- Where parents can be reached: full names, addresses and work and home phone numbers.
- At least two people to contact if parents can't be reached: phone numbers and addresses.
- The child's regular health care providers: names, addresses and phone numbers.
- The hospital the child's family uses: name, address and phone number.
- The date of the child's last physical examination. Any child who has not had a well-baby or well-child examination recently (within the past six months for children under two years of age and within one year for two- to six-year-olds) should be examined within 30 days of entering your child care setting.
- Any special health problems or medical conditions that a child may have and procedures to follow to deal with these conditions. Examples of conditions needing procedures are allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and sickle cell anemia. These conditions can cause sudden attacks that may require immediate action. You should know: 1) what happens to the child during a crisis related to the condition; 2) how to prevent a crisis; 3) how to deal with a crisis; and 4) whether you need training in a particular emergency procedure.
- The child's immunization status.
- Whether the child has been evaluated with a TB skin test—only high-risk children in the centers need a skin test.

California regulations require that each child accepted for care in centers has a written medical assessment before or within 30 calendar days. The medical assessment can inform the child care provider about any necessary health related services the child may need. If special care is needed and the provider is willing and able, make sure to get permission from the parent to talk directly with the health care provider.

### Immunization Requirements for Child Care

The law requires you to have written proof of each child's up-to-date immunizations. Children attending child care especially need all of the recommended immunizations to protect themselves, the other children, the child care provider and their families. Several diseases that can cause serious problems for children and adults can be prevented by immunization. These diseases are chickenpox, diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae, meningitis, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, polio, German measles (rubella), tetanus and whooping cough (pertussis).

Parents must present their child's Immunization Record prior to enrollment. Copy the full date (month/day/year) of each shot onto the blue California School Immunization Record card and then determine if the child is up-to-date. Blue cards are available free from the Immunization Coordinator at your local health department. As the child care provider, it is your responsibility to follow up regularly until all shots have been given and recorded.