

# What happens if my child is sick

**We hope that you and your child have a healthy year, but illness happens to all of us and is common in early childhood. If your child is sick, your first concern is to get him or her well again.**

**It can be frustrating when sudden illness means that you need to miss therapy sessions or other services at short notice. The NDIA allows us to charge where less than 24 hours notice is given.**

**We suggest that you plan ahead in case this happens. Talk to your Plumtree team member about what will happen if your child wakes up sick and you need to cancel. There are lots of things that your therapist can do to make good use of the session time on your behalf.**



What you decide will be different for every family; however, below are some ideas.

## **Your Therapist/Key Worker could:**

- Make visual resources, such as visual schedules, behaviour guides or communication cards
- Work on a social story to help with behaviour or social skills;
- Arrange a Parent Only meeting;
- Contact your child's preschool, child care centre or school to co-ordinate services;
- Research information on a topic that you have been talking about;
- Look online for toys or equipment to suit your child's needs and your budget;
- Consult with another member of Plumtree's team, in order to provide a better service for your child; OR
- Do something else that is unique for your child and family.

If you have talked about this ahead of time, you will need to give only a quick instruction on the day. For example, you might send a text message that says: "My child is sick today, please work on the visuals as discussed."

It's a good idea to discuss how you will communicate cancellations with your therapist (for example, phone calls or text messages).

Next time you meet, your therapist will report back to you about how the time has been spent. You might be asked to sign off for the session.

Sometimes, parents hesitate to cancel a session when their child's illness is relatively minor, such as a head cold. However, anything that is infectious is a concern as it can be spread via our staff to other children. There is a chance that it could be spread to someone who is pregnant or already unwell. We appreciate it when you cancel as it helps to keep an illness contained.

If your therapist knows how to spend the time in support of your goals, you can be sure that your funds will be used well. This is something that the two of you – you and your therapist – can work out together.