

14. Sickness and Illness Policy

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person or a person they are familiar with the child
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an eye/ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection. The Care Inspectorate will be notified if the infection affects the daily running of the nursery.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course
- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable. This is for the benefit of other service users and children in our care.
- It is a regulation that Information/posters about head lice are readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair. This will be confidential and only the room in which this has occurred disclosed.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Care Inspectorate. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately of the incident
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff should therefore be aware that they are professionals and have a duty of care to not only the child affected but to the other children within the room setting.

Exclusion for Infectious diseases and illnesses

Infectious disease / illness	Exclusion period / action required
*Antibiotics Prescribed	<i>First 2 days at home</i>
*Temperature	<i>If sent home ill, must be off for 24 hours</i>
*Diarrhoea	<i>48 hours after symptoms have subsided</i>
*Vomiting	<i>48 hours after symptoms have subsided</i>
Thrush	<i>Until lesions have gone</i>
*Conjunctivitis	<i>Kept at home for 2 days; thereafter Until eyes are no longer weeping</i>
*Chickenpox	<i>7 days from the appearance of the rash</i>
Gastroenteritis, food poisoning Salmonella and Dysentery	<i>Until authorized by Doctor or Health Authority</i>
Infective Hepatitis	<i>7 days from onset of jaundice</i>
Measles	<i>Until 4 days after rash has disappeared</i>
Meningococcal Infections	<i>Until fully recovered</i>
Mumps	<i>Until the swelling has subsided, in no case less than 7 days</i>
Poliomyelitis	<i>Until declared free from infection by a doctor</i>
Rubella (German measles)	<i>4 days after disappearance of the rash</i>
Scarlett Fever and Streptococcal infection of the throat	<i>Until appropriate medical treatment has been given, and 3 days from the start of treatment</i>
Tuberculosis	<i>Until declared free from infection by doctor</i>
*Fever	<i>Until declared free from infection by doctor</i>
Impetigo	<i>Until the skin is healed</i>
*Pediculosis (Lice)	<i>Until appropriate treatment has been given</i>
Planter warts	<i>No exclusion, should be treated and covered</i>
Ringworm	<i>7 days, need not to be excluded once appropriate treatment is given</i>
Influenza	<i>Until recovered</i>

***Indicator of more commonly spread illnesses in nursery**

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	
Signed on behalf of the nursery	
Disseminated to staff on	
Date for review	