

Sickness / illness policy & Procedure

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 parents rather than at nursery with their peers. To these ends 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 parents / carers 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
- 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 and chicken pox, to protect the 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 this infection
- 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.
- Appendix 1 outlines – exclusion for illness (see attached)

meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager should contact the Infection Control Nurse for their area, and Ofsted. 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.

Procedure for unwell child

1. Identify symptoms and take temperature
2. phone the parent/carer if sickness starts while the child is at the nursery
3. take care of the child in a quiet room (sleep room preferably by the child's keyworker). If the child has a high temperature reduce it by tepid sponging and removing some of their clothing, until the parent/carer arrives.
4. To control cross infection, the following incubation periods should be adhered to and the child will not be allowed back at the nursery until incubation period is over (see appendix 1 for fuller details)

transporting children to hospital procedure

1. if the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
2. whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent/carer and arrange to meet them at the hospital
3. 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
4. remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

Signed on behalf of the nursery:

Job title.....

This policy was adopted on: 31st March 2010

Date Policy will be reviewed: 31st March 2011

Appendix 1

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND EXCLUSION TIMESCALES	
NOTICE TO PARENTS/CARERS: Your child should not attend nursery if they are suffering from any of the following illnesses. Our recommended minimum exclusion days are:	
CHICKEN POX	Until blisters are all crusted, or skin has healed. A minimum of 5 days from onset of rash
CONJUNCTIVITIS	Until infection has cleared (the child can be readmitted to nursery once prescribed antibiotic drops have been administered for a minimum of 24 hours)
DIARRHOEA	For 48 hours after symptoms have cleared
GERMAN MEASLES/RUBELLA	For 9 days or as advised by GP. Minimum of 5 days after rash appears
HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH	Whilst the child is unwell
HEAD LICE	When treatment has been carried out successfully
IMPETIGO	Until 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
MEASLES	For 5 days after onset of rash
MUMPS	For 5 days (after onset of swollen glands)
RINGWORM	When treatment has commenced
ROTAVIRUS	For 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
SCABIES	Child can return after first treatment has been completed
SCARLET FEVER	For a minimum of 5 days (once antibiotics commenced)
THREADWORM	When treatment has commenced
VOMITTING	For 48 hours after symptoms have cleared
WHOOPING COUGH	5 days from start of antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment prescribed by GP
ANTIBIOTICS	Children on antibiotic must be excluded from Nursery for the first 24 hours
A TEMPERATURE	Until temperature is normal for 24 hours or on the advice of a doctor
IMMUNISATION	Child excluded from nursery for 24 hours following immunisation
Coughs and colds do not normally require exclusion unless they are severe or the child is distressed. Please note this list is not exhaustive and the advice is taken from the Guidance for School & Nurseries from the Health Protection Agency. We also refer to the NHS Direct Healthcare Guide. Please seek medical advice if you are unsure or concerned.	