



Sickness and Illness Policy

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interests to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers. In the interests of keeping children healthy and minimising infection we will implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery.
- In relation to Hand, Foot and Mouth disease the nursery shall not permit a child to attend nursery until 5 days have passed since the start of symptoms (small blisters appearing on the child's body). If a child remains poorly after this date they should not return to nursery until they feel better as they are likely to still be contagious.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We notify Ofsted where we have any child or staff member with a notifiable disease such as food poisoning or acute meningitis. 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 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.
- Parents are requested to check their child's hair regularly for head lice. 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.

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 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. The nursery also needs to ensure that it follows all guidance given and that the appropriate authority is notified.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, a designated member of staff shall call for an ambulance immediately whilst still ensuring that the child continues to be comforted and there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together. Our staff will not transport a sick child in their own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, the parent(s) shall be contacted and arrangements shall be made to meet them at the hospital.
- The most appropriate member of staff shall accompany the child to the hospital and shall collect together registration forms, medical records, any relevant medicine and the child's comforter and nursery bag.
- A member of the nursery's management team shall also be informed immediately after the child's parent(s).
- Staff shall remain calm at all times.