



Policy Document:

# Illness & Infectious Children

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## Illness & Infectious Children.

### Note:

This policy replaces the Children that are Sick or Infectious policy.

### Policy statement

We provide care for healthy children and actively promote health through our policies and procedures. In the event that a child is unwell at the setting the procedure below is followed.

We cannot accept any child into the nursery who is unwell or who has a contagious infection.

### Aims

To provide a healthy and safe environment for all children, staff, volunteers and visitors.

### Procedure – Control of Illness

There may be occasions when a child is not so ill as to require medical care but nevertheless the nursery would be an unsuitable location. If a child arrives at the setting and the Manager/Deputy Manager/Senior staff member does not consider a child well enough to attend, the parent/carers will be advised accordingly. We will make every effort to stop the spread of infection within the setting but can only do this with the co-operation of parent/carers. Here is a list of the most common childhood ailments that are infectious and we have included on our exclusion list below.

- Coughs, colds and sore throats – we appreciate that children often pick up cold viruses without being ill and accept they do not need to stay away from the setting, however, if they have a raised temperature, continued cough, or are unable to eat, then exclusion will be necessary for a minimum of 48 hours or until cleared.
- Any child with sickness or diarrhoea must be kept away from the setting for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness and / or diarrhoea.
- Temperatures – any child with a raised temperature, even if not accompanied by any other symptoms, should be kept away for 48 hours.
- Children that have the following illnesses may not attend setting until completely cleared. This policy overrules government guidance
  - Chicken Pox No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Cold Sores No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Conjunctivitis No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Hand, Foot and Mouth No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Head Lice No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Impetigo No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Slapped Cheek No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.
  - Whooping Cough No return to Pre-School until fully cleared.

**For all other illnesses, please refer to the Managing Specific Infectious Diseases: A to Z guidance on the GOV.UK website.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>

### Illness – action for staff

- If a child becomes unwell during a session, we will endeavour to make them comfortable in a quiet place and keep under observation, noting any changes in condition. Very sick children will not be left unattended. If there is a danger of vomiting, we will support a bowl and keep the child separated from other children where possible.

- The child's parent/carer will be contacted and given precise details of the child's condition. We will discuss with parents the best course of action. If parents are not contactable, we will call the child's emergency contacts.
- The parent/carer will be asked to keep their child at home until they have recovered following the above timescales.
- If on return to nursery a parent/carer says that their child has been unwell but now seems to have recovered, we will ask for exact details and make a decision.

### **Ongoing medical needs**

For chronic illnesses e.g. Asthma or children with special medical needs, we will administer, as necessary, any medication as long as agreed care plan is in place. A record will be made of the time any medication is given, and parents will be asked to acknowledge this with their signature. This will be in accordance with the setting's Administering Medication Policy.

### **Serious illness**

If a child should suddenly become seriously ill during the duration of the session, we will immediately seek medical attention. The setting staff will follow their **Paediatric First Aid training with one qualifies First Aider taking lead.**

**Parents/Carers are requested to give consent for emergency treatment in the relevant section of the child's Registration Form.**

### **RIDDOR - Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations**

The Centre has a legal duty to report certain injuries, diseases, etc. to the Health and Safety Executive and Ofsted.

Reportable diseases include certain poisonings, some skin diseases, lung diseases, infections such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, anthrax, legionellosis and tetanus. Reporting will be conducted by the Centre Manager/Management Committee Chair or other Trustee.

If unsure of whether to report, advice can be sought from Health Professional or from referring to the HSE website <https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>.

The Centre will keep a record, which includes the date and method of reporting, the date, time and place of event, the personal details of those involved and a brief description of the nature of the event or disease.

How to report...

- To the HSE (time limits vary depending on type of event)...
  - Online at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reporting/index.htm> Section 3: How to make a RIDDOR report
  - Phone 0345 300 9923
- To Ofsted (within 14 days of the event)...
  - Online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>