



Health Procedures - Poorly Children

If your child is unwell upon arrival at nursery, we reserve the right to refuse them entry to protect our community and vulnerable staff.

Nursery Staff do not make a decision about sending a child home without seeking advice from their supervisor first then a conversation can be had between the supervisor and manager with regards to a plan. If a manager is unavailable to have this conversation with then a supervisor is able to make a decision with regards to sending the child home.

Depending on the child's condition: The manager will decide whom makes the phone call to parents/carers.

If a parent/carer is uncontactable and the child's condition worsens where they would need medical attention, we will call an ambulance. We will do our best to contact all emergency contacts leaving voice mails explaining the situation. The child will not attend hospital on their own. The manager of the nursery and the child's key adult will chaperone. The manager will take the child's file with them to the hospital. The remaining nursery staff will continue to contact the parents/careers.

- If a child appears unwell during the day e.g. If the child has a raised temperature, A phone call will be made to the parent/carer and we will ask for the child to be collected from nursery.
- Sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – A phone call will be made to the Parent/carer to arrange collection of the child.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, but kept away from draughts. A phone call will be made to the parent/carer and we will ask for the child to be collected from nursery.
- A child's temperature is taken using a 'fever scan' which is kept within a First Aid Box. Our fever scan has a clear screen where the temperature is displayed along with a light up panel which gives a clear visual prompt of concern to the child's temperature by using A Traffic light colour coded system. If the scan shows amber concern we will contact the parent/carer to discuss a plan and to arrange a collection time. The child does not need to have a temperature to be sent home, if the child seems too unwell to be at nursery, we will ask for them to be collected.
- If the child's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high we hold an emergency supply of Calpol which may be given after first gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies. Parents' sign a Calpol administration consent form when they collect their child.
- In some cases, the Parents'/carers are advised to take their child to their GP before returning them to the setting.
- The setting has the right to refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection, disease or generally seems to unwell to be at nursery.
- In an emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.

- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 24 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 2 clear days following the last episode.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack where there is a risk of cross contamination will be suspended for the duration of some outbreak.
- Staff are not allowed to serve food if they are unwell.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and current exclusion times for parents to access.
- The setting has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the local Health Protection Agency and Ofsted in the event of outbreak and advice will be adhered to in all cases.

Common Childhood illness and how we protect our children.

- Parents/carers will be contacted if their child develops an unexplained **rash** and they will be requested to seek medical advice which they should follow before the child returns to nursery.
- **Coughs, colds and sore throats** do not necessarily require the child to be excluded from the nursery, but this will depend on the severity and how the child is able to cope within the nursery routine. If we feel that the child is too unwell to be at nursery then we will send the child home. If a child's temperature starts to raise then they will also be sent home as part of our normal poorly children procedures.
- To prevent the spread of **conjunctivitis**, if we believe a child may have symptoms relating to the virus, we will inform parents/carers promptly and advise that the child is collected as soon as possible. We will advise that the child is seen by a doctor or pharmacist for advice on what treatment is required. Once the child has been treated and the conjunctivitis appears controlled, providing the child is happy they may return to nursery after 48 hours, giving time for the treatment to work. This will be at the discretion of the managers and in discussion with the parent/carer to ensure the spread of the infection is reduced to a minimum. If you decide not to use medication, we would request the child remains clear of the nursery until they are symptom free and the eyes are completely clear.
- **Chicken pox** – Children need to be absent from the nursery for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash. If the spots are scabbed over and dried up the child may return to nursery, as long as they are well in themselves.
- **Hand, Foot and Mouth**- children need to remain absent from nursery for the first 3 days of coming out in the blisters. Children can not return to nursery after this time if they are still unwell. This is highly contagious disease that will spread around the nursery very quickly. Every child reacts differently and some children will become very unwell. If your child develops these hand, foot and Mouth symptoms please keep them at home to help us reduce the risk to others.
- **Slapped Cheek Disease**-Because this is harmful to expectant mothers, please do not bring your child into nursery until fully recovered. They are contagious when the rash has come out but they must be well in themselves
- **Whooping Cough** – A child may not return to Nursery until fully recovered and a course of treatment has been completed.

- **Head lice** are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep their child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

Please remember that some childhood illnesses spread quickly and effect each child differently therefore we will be cautious to our actions and children send home promptly when we feel that the child is at risk of spreading an infection/virus/disease throughout the nursery.

Covid

Children will be sent home in line with our standard sickness policy. If a child is unwell and not well enough to be at nursery we will send them home.

The new Government guidance places responsibility on the public to manage the spread of the Covid in their communities by making sensible decisions. There is no change to the government's advice, just to the law enforcing that advice. The global pandemic is not over yet, and the government is clear in their response that there is considerable uncertainty about the path that the virus will now take in the UK. We must be careful and take sensible precautions - reducing the risk while impacting as little as possible on nursery life.

Outbreaks of illness affect how well classes and groups run. Also, we have members of our wider community and staff with vulnerable family members (and vulnerabilities themselves), so a cautious approach is needed to help keep them safe.

What happens now if I think my child has covid?

Firstly we would ask you to test your child if possible, if that test is positive the government is advising people to keep their children at home for at least 5 full days and until they have had two negative test results on consecutive days, even if the child has no symptoms. Coming into nursery while positive for COVID-19 does pose a significant risk to vulnerable children and members of staff.

"Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive are continued to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days."

For nurseries, this places COVID-19 on a similar level as the current policy for when children have other infectious illnesses such as chicken pox or vomiting/diarrhoea. We'd hope that families would make the right choice to keep their child at home if they test positive.

This list is not exhaustive therefore if your child becomes unwell and you are unsure on what action you should take, please contact the nursery and a care plan will be put into place.

Please support us to remain open we are only a small business, we rely on our families to keep children at home when poorly, to help prevent the spread of any outbreaks which may affect our opening capabilities.