

Sickness and Infections Policy

Policy statement

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

Sick children

- During the children's pre-visits parents will be notified about procedures for when their child is unwell or they are in an emergency situation.
- When a child is absent parents/carers are asked to contact the Nursery to inform us of the illness.
- Parents are informed of illnesses when necessary by a clearly displayed sign being placed on the door in the lobby and on the classroom door.
- Parents/carers are asked to keep their children at home if they have an infection/illness.
- Parents are asked not to bring into Nursery any child who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until at least 48 hours after the last bout.
- Parents are asked not to bring into Nursery any child who has been prescribed antibiotics for at least 24 hours after the first dose.
- If a child is suffering from Conjunctivitis (a very infectious eye infection), children can attend nursery as long as they are well in themselves.
- Nits and headlice are not an excludable condition although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared. On identifying headlice all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have headlice.
- When a child becomes sick at the Nursery the adults listed on the registration form will be contacted in order of priority and asked to collect the child.
- A child awaiting collection will rest on a sleep mat in a secluded quiet area within the main rooms.
- Emergency contact details and medical details are regularly updated (at the consultation meetings or sooner) to ensure procedures can be maintained.
- Staff will be kept abreast of any current local health issues by the required training and/or staff meetings.
- A list of notifiable diseases and current exclusion times is displayed in the office.

- When the Nursery becomes aware of or is formally informed of the notifiable disease the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Public Health England.
- The setting will inform Ofsted if 2 or more children have food poisoning.
- Children who have a high temperature over 38 degrees are asked to stay at home.

Allergies/ Dietary requirements

- Parents record any allergies on the registration form prior to starting. This is updated at each consultation meeting.
- A green medicine form is completed for any medication required (see medicine policy).
- Children with allergies and special requirements are listed on the yellow sheet in each room.
- Staff who have had epipen training are listed on the yellow sheet in each room.
- A qualified health professional trains staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- No nuts or nut products are used around the children or provided for meals (Parents are informed at their settle session.)

Health & hygiene

- Alcohol based hand sanitisers are located in entrance, corridor and kitchen area.
- To prevent the spread of infection and maintain the cleanliness of the premises a cleaner is employed and a cleaning routine is established.
- Any spills of blood, urine or faeces are cleared with detergent then anti-bacterial cleaner and the cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste. To clean vomit it is cleaned using an odour neutralising powder then hoovered up. Gloves are used and disposed of with the clinical waste at these times.
- A rota system is established for cleaning toys, furnishings, dressing up clothes and other equipment. This is recorded half-termly.
- Children will be encouraged to help tidy up at points during the sessions. Staff will undertake 'emergency' cleaning to deal with accidents, spillages etc..
- Hand washing: Staff wash hands after changing nappies. Signs indicate the correct hand washing procedure. Before handling food, staff wash hands in the hand washing sink in the kitchen. Individual interwoven paper hand towels are provided in toilets, nappy changing room, the kitchen and main teaching room.
- Bins are available to dispose of tissue and paper towels hygienically. These are emptied daily.

- Staff and children's cultural and religious practices, such as food preparation or washing are respected at all times.
- Good hygiene practice is supplemented by advice sought and received from relevant outside agencies and disseminated at staff meetings.
- Good hygiene is promoted by: tables being cleaned in between sessions and toilets being checked regularly. After meals tables are cleaned with a cloth that has been stored in sterilizing solution and floors are swept.
- Disposable gloves are used when administering first aid and hand sanitizer is available in the first aid bags.
- When children are soiled or wet a fresh set of clothes are provided. The dirty ones are placed in a bag, which is knotted and placed on the child's peg.
- To promote children's hygiene routines are in place to encourage children to use the toilet correctly, wash their hands after toileting and before meals.
- Disposable tissues are available to encourage children to wipe their nose and gentle reminders of placing their hand in front of their mouth when coughing and sneezing will be carried out.
- The nursery has a 'link' health visitor to whom we can turn to for advice.

This policy is also relevant to EYFS Commitments: 1.2,2.2,,2.4 & 3.2