

## **HEALTH / ILLNESS AND EMERGENCY**

### **1 Introduction**

It is the nursery policy to encourage and promote good health and hygiene for all the children in our care. This includes monitoring the children for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, meningitis, hepatitis, diarrhoea, vomiting and fevers of 101°F/38.5°C or over.

Should your child be unwell or sick before the start of the nursery session, we would kindly ask you not to bring your child to nursery. Nursery is an environment for well children, and not suitable for a child who is not well. This policy has been made with the best interests of the unwell child and all other children in mind.

### **2 Sick child policy**

With the welfare of the sick child in mind and in the interests of the remaining children in the nursery, if in the opinion of the staff a child is ill, then the parent/carer will be contacted and requested to collect him/her as soon as possible. We will endeavour to do all we can to comfort and reassure your child by taking them to a quiet place to rest whilst they are waiting to be collected. The staff of the nursery must be convinced that the child has returned to good health before re-admitting him/her.

Whilst at nursery, if a child's temperature reaches 38.5°C parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. In the event of us being unable to contact parents, emergency contacts will be called.

If a child is unwell at nursery an illness record form will be completed and the parent/carer will be asked to sign it on the collection of their child.

Although we understand that when a baby is teething they may spike a temperature, we ask that they are not brought into nursery as a child with a temperature for whatever reason is still unfit to attend nursery. We are aware that if a child had a temperature of over 39°C there is an increased risk of having a seizure.

Any child needing Calpol or any other pain killer before their session will be excluded from nursery in accordance with the medication policy. We ask all parents to be honest with us as if we need to administer calpol in an emergency it is imperative that we are informed of any other medication that has been given to ensure recommended safe doses are not being exceeded.

Prior to starting nursery all parents are asked to give signed consent to administer calpol if a child has a high temperature during the day. Parents will still be contacted

and children will need to be collected within one hour. In cases of emergencies we will give children 5mls of calpol.

Any child on prescribed medication will be admitted to nursery in accordance with the medication policy.

A record of why a child was sent home will always be kept.

### **3 Serious accident or illness**

In the case of a serious accident or illness occurring then the parent/carer will be contacted immediately and the appropriate action taken. In the unlikely event of the parent not being available the senior staff member will assume charge and if necessary take the child to hospital along with all relevant details.

**The following procedures will be followed in the event of:-**

#### **Major Accident**

**At all times the staff *must* wear protective clothing (disposable aprons and gloves).**

- 1 The manager and first aider will assess the situation and decide whether the child needs to go immediately to hospital or whether the child can wait for the parent/main carer to come.
- 2 If the first aider is unsure of what action to take NHS Direct will be contacted for advice on 0845 46 47.
  - a) If the child needs to go straight to hospital an ambulance will be called. The child's records will be taken with them to the hospital as parents sign to give medication in the event of an emergency on admission. Then the parent/main carer will be contacted and arrangements will be made to meet the parent/main carer at the hospital. The designated first aider or the child's key person will accompany the child to the hospital, but will not sign for any treatment to be carried out.
  - b) If the child can wait for the parent/main carer to come, then the parent/main carer will be contacted and the child will be made as comfortable as possible. A member of staff will stay with the child until the parent/main carer arrives. If the injury to the child is an open wet wound this must be covered to allow for any infection to be contained. It will then be for the parent/main carer to decide whether to go to the hospital or not.
- 3 A report of the accident will then be recorded on an accident form and if the child attended hospital. The parent/carer will be asked to read and sign this document. The management team will investigate the nature of the accident and if appropriate,

will make any necessary changes to prevent a similar accident occurring in the future.

- 3 The management team will inform Ofsted in the event of a serious accident or injury affecting either a child or adult on the premises.

### **Minor Accident**

**At all times the staff *must* wear protective clothing (disposable aprons and gloves).**

- 1 The injury is assessed by the keyperson and a qualified first aider. If necessary, the manager or deputy will be called.
- 2 The injury is then treated by a qualified first aider, according to recent first aid advice.
- 3 The child is then resettled back into the base room, and observed.
- 4 The accident is then recorded on an accident form and the parent/carer is asked to sign on the collection of their child
- 5 The accident file is checked by a member of the management team at the end of each month to check for any patterns.

### **4 EXCLUSION PROCEDURE FOR ILLNESS / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

The minimum exclusion periods are shown below. In the event of a child or adult suffering from a notifiable disease e.g. meningitis, or in the case of food poisoning affecting two or more children, Ofsted will be informed.

<i>Disease/Illness</i>	<i>Minimal Exclusion Period</i>
Antibiotics prescribed	24 hour exclusion from nursery and can only return if they are well.
Temperature	Will be sent home, excluded until temperature has returned to a normal level for a period of 24 hours without the need for medication.
Vomiting	48 hour exclusion after last episode
Conjunctivitis	Child can return to nursery with treatment – after an exclusion period of 24 hours
Diarrhoea	48 hour exclusion after last episode
Chickenpox	7 days exclusion from appearance of spots. Children can only return if all spots have scabbed and they are well.
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning, salmonellosis and dysentery	Min 48 hours, Health Protection Agency will be contacted for advice*
Infective hepatitis	Exclusion until all clear from GP
Measles	Exclusion until all clear from GP

Meningococcal infection	Until recovered from the illness
Mumps	Excluded until full recovery is made
Pertussis (whooping cough)	21 days from the onset of paroxysmal cough
Poliomyelitis	Until declared free from infection by the appropriate public health official.
Scarlet fever and streptococcal infection of the throat	Until appropriate medical treatment has been given and in no case for less than 3 days from the start of treatment. GP or Health Protection Agency to advise.
Tuberculosis	Until declared free from infection by the appropriate public health official
Typhoid fever	Until declared free from infection by the appropriate public health official
Impetigo	Excluded until the infected areas have dried and there are no more fluid-filled blisters.
Pediculosis (lice)	No exclusion where appropriate treatment is being given and duration does not exceed three weeks
Plantar warts	No exclusion. Should be treated and covered
Ringworm of scalp	Until cured
Ringworm of body	Seldom necessary to exclude provided treatment is being given
Slapped Cheek Syndrome (Fifth Disease, Parvovirus)	Kept away from nursery until well.
Scabies	Excluded until all clear from GP

\*Note: If an outbreak occurs, the exclusion period may be extended on the advice of Health Protection Agency.

If there are two or more reported cases of food poisoning in the nursery Ofsted will be informed and guidance followed.

Parents will be informed of any contagious diseases and any risk to pregnant women will be high lighted.

In the event of an outbreak of sickness and/or diarrhoea the Health Protection Agency will be notified. The following procedures will be carried out.

- The on call doctor at the Health Protection Agency will be contacted on 01273 403597
- If reported cases become more frequent contact Karen Ashdown form Environmental Health-01273 292441
- All parents will be asked to collect samples and to take them to their GP for testing.
- All equipment in the nursery will be deep cleaned.
- Any staff returning after being unwell are to be kept away from food preparation for an additional 24 hours.

The nursery Manager has a duty to think about the majority over the minority and for that reason if your child has an infectious illness or poses a risk of contamination to other children due to the illness being contagious, we reserve the right to exclude the child from nursery until they are well.

We take advice from the CCDC (Consultant in Communicable Disease Control) should we have concerns regarding childhood diseases. The CCDC advises us in action we may need to take and the information to be shared with parents.

Any parents wishing to contact the CCDC can do so by phoning Carol Park on 01273 403591

## **5 Forms to accompany this policy**

Forms used in conjunction with this policy

- Accident form
- Incident form