

Nursery on the Green

Sick Children Policy

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that all children are protected from infection whenever possible
- To ensure that children who become sick whilst at the Nursery are appropriately cared for until they are able to go home
- To ensure that the staff in the Nursery are aware of the dangers of the spread of infection and are able to take steps to protect both other children and themselves
- To keep a clear record of cases of communicable diseases in the Nursery and to inform related agencies should the need arise

Operating Procedure

When a child is settling into the Nursery, Sarah, Anneli or a room leader will ensure that they speak to parents about the importance of following a strict procedure on exclusion of children who are ill to protect all the adults and children in the Nursery. We will ensure that the exclusion procedure for sick children at the Nursery is given to parents when they are settling their child into Nursery. If a child becomes unwell at Nursery we will telephone their parents/carers and ask them to come to Nursery to fetch their child. When the child is picked up we will remind parents/carers to keep their child away from Nursery for the appropriate period of time. If a child becomes unwell and we are unable to contact their parents/carers we will telephone one or more of the emergency telephone numbers supplied to us. If we feel that the child may be very contagious we will take steps to contain the spread of their infection. These might include Sarah looking after the child away from the other children until they are picked up, or another member of staff taking the child into the garden if appropriate. If a child becomes unwell at Nursery and we feel that a medical opinion is urgent, then Sarah, Anneli, or Sam would make the decision to call an ambulance. One of these staff members, (usually Sarah or Anneli) would accompany the child to hospital if necessary and act in loco parentis until the parents/carers arrived. We obtain written consent to do this during settling-in from all parents. Sarah is responsible for keeping a log of contagious diseases. This is kept in the office on the shelf behind Sarah's computer. Should a child contract a relevant disease then we post notices outside all the base rooms in the Nursery together with any relevant information. The Nursery recognises the importance of good hygiene habits to control the spread of infection. We train all the staff in the correct hand washing technique to control the spread of germs and remind them of this during the monthly staff meetings. We also educate the children on the importance of hand washing and support them in learning this valuable life skill. Toys and resources are cleaned regularly in all base rooms and the garden.

Reviewed October 2017

EXCLUSION PROCEDURE FOR ILLNESS/COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

When your child presents the following symptoms, or is diagnosed with these illnesses, these are the minimum periods of exclusion from the Nursery.

Disease/illness	Minimal Exclusion Period
Antibiotics prescribed	First day at home
Temperature	Child must be off for 24 hours from last raised temperature, if sent home child must be kept off for minimum of 24 hours
Vomiting	Child must be off for 48 hours from last episode
Conjunctivitis	Keep at home for a minimum of one day whilst starting eye drops/creams. Children will not be accepted in Nursery with weepy eyes and will be sent home.
Diarrhoea	Child must be kept off Nursery for 48 hours minimum plus 2 clear nappies
Chickenpox	7 days from the appearance of the rash and spots must be scabbed over
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning, salmonellosis and dysentery	48 hours or until 2 clear nappies or for notifiable diseases, until advised by the relevant public health official
Infective Hepatitis	7 days from onset of jaundice
Measles	7 days from appearance of the rash
Meningococcal infection	Until recovered from the illness
Mumps	Until the swelling has subsided and in no case less than 7 days from the onset of the illness
Pertussis (whooping cough)	21 days from the onset of paroxysmal cough
Poliomyelitis	Until declared free from infection by the appropriate public health official
Scarlett fever and streptococcal infection of the throat	Until appropriate medical treatment has been given and in no case less than 3 days from the start of treatment
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	Until the skin is healed
Pediculosis (lice)	Until appropriate treatment is given
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
Scabies	Need not to be excluded once appropriate treatment has been given

