

Illness and Infection Control Policy

Policy statement

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 unwell. This policy has been made with the best interests of the unwell child and all other children in mind.

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 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, nursery staff will administer Calpol (paracetamol) as a first aid procedure to reduce a fever.
- Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible (even after Calpol has been administered).
- 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.
- A record of why a child was sent home will always be kept.
- We ask all parents to be honest with us as it is imperative that we are informed if a child has been given any medication before arriving at nursery or if he/she is taking medication on a regular basis.
- Any child on prescribed medication will be admitted to nursery in accordance with the medication policy.

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 Nursery Manager will assume charge and if necessary take the child to hospital along with all relevant details. (See Accident and Incident Policy)

Infection Control Procedures

- Parents will be informed of any contagious diseases and any risk to pregnant women will be highlighted.
- In the event of a child or adult suffering from a notifiable disease e.g. meningitis, or in the case of food poisoning affecting three or more children, Ofsted, the Health Protection Agency and/or Environmental Health Officer will be informed and advice sought.

Exclusion Procedure For Illness / Communicable Disease:

The minimum exclusion periods are shown on the table below.

<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.

Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS

- Confidentiality in disclosure of all conditions will be respected.
- The nursery expects that all relevant medical history be disclosed
- If any staff member believes that anyone in the setting has had blood to blood/bodily fluid contact with a carrier of Hepatitis/HIV they should seek medical advice immediately.

Cleaning up Blood and High-Risk Bodily Fluids

- Spillages must be dealt with, quickly and effectively.
- Protective gloves and aprons must be worn.
- Organic matter is cleaned up with disposal towels and/or cardboard and disposed of in the correct waste bin.
- Care must be taken to isolate the area until it is cleaned.
- External surfaces must be washed down with plenty of water.
- Other surfaces must be washed with detergent and water and disposable

cloths.

- Surfaces must be rinsed and dried thoroughly
- Buckets/bowls are cleaned in fresh, hot soapy water and dried.
- All protective clothing and other waste should be sealed in a plastic bag and disposed of in the correct waste bin.

Cleaning up Low-Risk Bodily Fluids

- Cover urine/faeces/vomit with paper towels or similar.
- Clear up as high-risk fluids as above.

Staff Sickness

- If a staff member is sick, the exclusion periods for relevant illnesses above, apply.
- The staff member will discuss with the Management Team their wellness to return to work.
- It is staff member's responsibility to recognise and report changes in their own health and to prioritise the health and safety of the children in their care.

Outbreaks of Diarrhoea and Vomiting

- The on call doctor at the Health Protection Agency will be contacted.
- If reported cases become more frequent, Environmental Health will be contacted.
- All parents will be informed.
- 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 their illness being contagious, we reserve the right to exclude the child from nursery until they are well.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of The Natural Nurture Nursery Management Committee held on the 3rd March 2016.