

## 5. sickness and illness

England: EYFS

3.42

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an eye/chest infection etc or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours and not have been administered any Paracetamol or Ibuprofen products for 24 hours, rounded to the start of the next appropriate session. We stress that this is to the benefit of the child who is unwell and to limit the spread of infections.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness and obtain a GP appointment. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course, however, we ask parents to be considerate that even after 24 hours your child may not be fit for nursery and to fully assess whether it is appropriate to bring them in until significantly better.
- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- Information/posters about head lice are readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has

head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair. If we feel that a child is suffering **unduly** from head lice we will ask that they remain away until the treatment is working.

- If parents feel that their child's illness is due to teething, please discuss this with the Duty Manager either prior to coming in or on arrival, but before settling your child in. We will then jointly assess if your child is well enough to attend that session. It is discretionary as to whether we allow the child to join the session and give medication as required, this must be signed for in advance.
- If you have given your child any medication, especially pain relief or temperature controlling medication prior to attending you **MUST** inform the Duty Manager. Failure to do so could result in your child receiving an accidental overdose and is extremely dangerous. A written record must be made of any prior administered medication and signed by the person dropping off.
- In the event of a child requiring First Aid or emergency treatment, including hospitalisation, it is assumed that the parent/carer responsible for the child automatically gives authority to the setting to give this including agreeing to medical consent from a Paediatric Doctor or relevant health professional if contact cannot be made with those listed on the child's registration document.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Ofsted. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

The contact details are: Health Protection Agency – 0208 200 4400 (infectious diseases) or 03300 245792 (South of England regional office)

### **Transporting children to hospital procedure**

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. **DO NOT** attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately

- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

Dated: 31st July 2017