

Sickness and Illness

It is the nursery policy to prevent cross contamination of infection & promote 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 fever of 37.5C or over.

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers. In the interest of keeping children healthy and minimising infection we will implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area.
- We follow the guidance on Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day Care and Childminding Settings)' given to us by the Health Protection Team Scotland and the exclusion criteria from the 'Childcare and Childminding Settings' guidance on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We notify the Care Inspectorate where we have any child or staff member with a notifiable disease such as food poisoning or acute meningitis. If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. 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
- If support is required staff will complete the nursery Outbreak of Infection Sheet and contact our local Health Protection Team on 01698 858232/ 858228 and follow their guidance.
- 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 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions, e.g. asthma, and the child is not unwell)
- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager, and in her absence a member of staff, 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.

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 the Care Inspectorate. 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 nursery also needs to ensure that it follows all guidance given and that the appropriate authority is notified.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, a designated member of staff should call for an ambulance immediately whilst still ensuring that the child continues to be comforted and there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together. 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
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- The most appropriate 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
- Staff may also require support following an incident.

National Care Standards- A Safe Environment, Standard 2
 Health and Wellbeing, Standard 3
 A caring environment, Standard 7
 Well-managed Service, Standard 14

Signature	Position	Review Date