

## Sickness and Illness

The wellbeing of the children in our care is always our main priority and we endeavour to care for all children that may be suffering with minor illnesses such as colds and coughs. However there will be occasions when we feel that the best option for the child is to be cared for by their parents at home. Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers. We will take the following procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- We ask all parents to consider carefully whether their child is well enough to be in nursery before bringing them.
- If parents decide not to bring their child to nursery we request that they contact the nursery to inform us of this by 10am or 2pm for a child who attends afternoons only and provide the reason.
- We reserve the right to refuse entry to any child we feel is not well enough to attend nursery and may request that a parent seeks medical attention for their child before returning.
- 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
- We ask parents to ensure they provide the nursery with a number of emergency contacts and make arrangements for someone else to collect your child if they know it would take them longer than 1hr to reach the nursery.
- Should a child have an infectious disease we will follow the most recent guidance provided for Schools and Early Years settings.
- If your child is suffering with sickness or diarrhoea they will be excluded from the nursery for 48hrs following the last bout.
- 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.
- Please refer to our Medication Policy for information about the types of medication we can administer and when children may return to nursery.
- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision is taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- If we are informed that a child in the nursery has a contagious illness we will send out a letter to all parents to inform them of the signs and symptoms to be aware of and any exclusion periods for the illness.
- If a child has a high temperature staff will attempt to cool naturally (see NHS guidance here: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/feverchildren/pages/introduction.aspx>). If this is unsuccessful parents will be contacted to collect their child. Whilst awaiting parents

arrival , if permission is given, we will be able to administer Calpol (see medication policy).

- Parents must inform the nursery on drop off if their child has had medicine before arriving at nursery.
- Sending a child home is the last resort and the manger on duty must be informed and make the final decision.
- Parents must respect the decision of the nursery as this will always be made with the child’s best interests in mind.
- If parents feel there child is well enough to be at nursery they must seek the attention of their GP.
- The nursery will always take the advice of a GP and the parent’s views on board, however before accepting a child into nursery the manager on duty must be entirely satisfied that they are able to provide the appropriate care levels needed by the child.

### *Head Lice Policy*

Head lice can be common in young children. At any time around 10% of the population is infected by head lice.

Research shows that:

- Head lice infections arise where heads touch one another.
- Head lice can only crawl and cannot jump, hop or fly from head to head.
- Head lice infections may spread if children are not treated correctly
- A head lice infestation is not the result of dirty hair or poor hygiene.
- Head lice can affect all types of hair irrespective of its condition and length.

Procedures for dealing with children with head lice:

- Children who are found to be infected with head lice will not be excluded from nursery
- Parents/carers should be informed if head lice are discovered. This will be done prior to collection if possible to allow parents time to purchase treatment.
- Nursery staff must stress to parents/carers the need for treatment to take place quickly and effectively.

Internal use only

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	June 22
<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	
<b>Date disseminated to staff</b>	
<b>Date for review</b>	June 23

