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**Sickness / illness policy**

Children should not be left at Preschool if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parents rather than at Preschool with their peers. To these ends we will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery

* If a child becomes ill during the Preschool day, their parents / carers 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 sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
* It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority (Department of Health) and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox and slapped cheek to protect the 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 and can have a negative effect on the early stages of pregnancy in some cases.
* 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 this infection
* The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on and is non-negotiable.
* In the case of conjunctivitis we ask parents to come and collect their child visit the G.P administer the treatment then bring back to the setting, the procedure is the same for head lice but the treatment is brought from the chemist, we do not exclude after the child has received treatment.

**Meningitis procedure**

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

**Transporting children to hospital procedure**

1. If the sickness is severe, we will call for an ambulance immediately. WE WILL NOT attempt to transport the sick child in our own vehicles
2. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the parent/carer and arrange to meet them at the hospital
3. 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
4. Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.