

Sickness, Illness and Injury

At **Little Pearls Nursery** we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment to rest, relax and recuperate. An average nursery day is busy and active for children while they learn and socialise with other children and adults. We reserve the right to refuse admission to any child who we believe is not well enough to cope with the nursery day. This decision centred around the child's best interests will be made by the Manager or senior staff member on duty and is non-negotiable.

There will still be a charge of any child who is off sick as the nursery staff will already be on site. This may be reviewed in the case of a long-term sickness.

Our procedures

To take appropriate action when children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection, we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery. We use the 'Spotty Book' to determine exclusion periods.

The link to the official document is- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/09/spotty-book-2019-.pdf>

- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. Different exclusion period apply for different illnesses – we can advise what the exclusion periods are on a case-by-case basis. We inform all parents via signs and email if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- The nursery areas and resources are cleaned each month to uphold a good level of hygiene. As soon as we become aware of an infection/ illness which has affected multiple children/ staff we initiate a deep clean of the nursery.
- In the unlikely case of food poisoning, we notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 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). Children can only come back to nursery for the remainder of the antibiotics if this has been deemed as suitable by a

doctor. This is because 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.

- All parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice. 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.
- Children who have had a serious injury and are healing (e.g. broken leg) will only be allowed in the nursery if the medical professionals dealing with their case feel it is safe to do so. If, at any time, the nursery staff feel the rigour of the day is putting the child at risk of hurting themselves more the child will be sent home.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. 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. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

In the case that the child comes down with a serious illness or has a serious accident whilst at nursery, the following procedures will apply. The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness/ injury is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick/ injured child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) 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
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication, and the child's comforter
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Always remain calm. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident
- Ofsted must be notified of any serious incident within 14 days or as soon as a reasonable possible.

Please find our exclusion periods below:

Exclusion Periods

Illness	Minimum Exclusion Period
High temperature	24 hours
Vomiting	48 hours after symptoms have ceased
Diarrhoea	48 hours after symptoms have ceased
Conjunctivitis	If child is otherwise clinically well
Chickenpox	5 days from onset of rash
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted over or healed
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Scabies	24 hours after treatment
Head lice	No exclusion period
Slapped cheek (fifth disease)	Until child is clinically well, rash is not a sign of infectivity
Hand, foot and mouth (coxsackie virus)	Until clinically well
Ear infections	No exclusion necessary

Please note- these exclusion periods are not only to protect from cross-infection. Children who are unwell are likely to develop secondary infections if their immune system has not had sufficient time to recover. Children's ability to cope with group situations is greatly reduced when they are poorly, therefore our exclusion periods are aimed at ensuring the children are strong enough, emotionally, and physically, to cope with the nursery day.

These exclusions also apply to all staff.

Policy date: December 2022

Review date: December 2023