

## Children's Sickness Policy and Procedures

### Aims

To provide a healthy and safe environment for all children.

### Policy

We cannot accept any child who is unwell or who has had a serious infectious illness.

### Procedure

#### Control of illness

There may be occasions when a child is not so ill as to require medical care but nevertheless childcare would be unsuitable. If a child arrives at the setting and the Senior Worker on duty does not consider him/her well enough to attend, the parent/carers will be advised accordingly. We will make every effort to stop the spread of infection but can only do this with the co-operation of parent/carers. Here are some common childhood ailments and information on exclusion periods.

- Coughs, colds and sore throats – we appreciate that children often pick up cold viruses without being ill and accept they do not need to stay away from the setting. However, if they have a raised temperature, continued cough, or are unable to eat, then exclusion will be necessary.
- Any child with sickness and/ or diarrhoea (irregular for the child in question) must be kept away from the setting for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness and / or diarrhoea
- Temperatures – any child with a raised temperature, even if not accompanied by any other symptoms, should be kept away until their temperature returns to normal. As a general rule, a temperature of 38C (100.4F) or above is classified as a fever in children by the NHS. But this can vary from child to child. Some children may be ill with a lower temperature, while others may have a higher temperature and be perfectly well.

Further information on infectious diseases can be found on the Public Health England section of the Gov.uk website [www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases](http://www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases)

Information on infection control can also be found in the documents entitled 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities' which is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapters-1-and-2-introduction-and-infections-in-childcare-settings](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapters-1-and-2-introduction-and-infections-in-childcare-settings)

## Illness - action for staff

- If a child becomes unwell during a session, make them comfortable in a quiet place and keep them under observation, noting any changes in condition and monitor temperature. Very sick children will not be left unattended. If there is a danger of vomiting, give a bowl or bucket. If temperature is 38 degrees or above, parents to be contacted.
- Contact the child's parent/carer and give them precise details of the child's condition. Discuss with them the best course of action, eg. to collect the child.
- Ask the parent/carer to keep them at home until s/he has recovered.
- If a parent/carer says that their child has been unwell but now seems to have recovered, ask for exact details and remind them that our policy is to ask them not to send a child to the setting for 48 hours after the final episode of sickness or diarrhoea.

## Ongoing medical needs

For chronic illnesses eg. Asthma or children with medical needs, we will administer, as necessary, any medication we have prior consent to administer. A record will be made of the time and parents will be asked to acknowledge this with their signature. This will be in accordance with the setting's Medication Policy.

## Serious illness

If a child should suddenly become seriously ill during the duration of the group, we will immediately seek medical attention. The setting will follow its **Serious Accident and Emergency Procedure in the First Aid Policy**.

## Riddor

Riddor means the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations and there are certain things that have to be reported to Riddor.

Reportable diseases include certain poisonings, some skin diseases, lung diseases and infections such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, anthrax, legionellosis and tetanus. If we are unsure we will ask a Health Professional for advice or refer to the Riddor website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>

We will keep a record, which will include the date and method of reporting, the date, time and place of event, the personal details of those involved and a brief description of the nature of the event or disease. An incident form may be used for this.



To report to Riddor, we will use the appropriate online form on the website, which can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm>

To report fatal/specified, and major incidents only T: 0345 300 9923

As well as reporting the outbreak to Riddor, we will also notify Ofsted (NOTE: registered childcare providers only).

**Ofsted: 0300 123 1231**