



Exclusion Policy for Illness and Communicable Diseases

It is the nursery's policy to encourage and promote good health and hygiene for all the children in our care. This includes monitoring all the children for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, meningitis, hepatitis, diarrhoea, vomiting and fevers.

Young children commonly suffer from infectious diseases. Some of these are given specific names such as chickenpox, some are termed 'viral illnesses' and others are described by the symptoms they cause such as diarrhoea and vomiting e.g. gastro-enteritis. Most of these are mild, short-lived illnesses but they can spread very easily in the nursery setting.

To minimise the chance of your child being ill at nursery and to reduce the spread of infectious disease, it would be helpful for you to observe the following guidelines:

1. If your child becomes ill at nursery it is important that staff have up to date information about how to contact you to ensure that your child is cared for in the best possible way.
2. Keep your child away from nursery if he/she is unwell. Staff at the nursery are not suitably trained to care for your sick child, and cannot be taken out of ratio to attend to one child for a long period of time.
3. If your child has had sickness or/and diarrhoea, then they need to be absent for **48 hours** from the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea.
4. Conjunctivitis -Your child can return to nursery once treatment has been given.
5. Hand foot and mouth- Your child can not return to nursery until all the spots have dried up.
6. Impetigo-Your child can not return to nursery until it has cleared up.
7. Antibiotics- Your child can not return to nursery until **48 hrs** of antibiotics have been administered.
8. Chicken Pox-Your child must be absent for 7 day for example, if the chicken pox started on a Tuesday, they cannot return until the following Wednesday. The spot must be dried and scabbed over.

The length of time your child should stay away from nursery depends upon the cause of their illness, how long your child's symptoms last for and how quickly your child recovers. There are recommended and agreed exclusion periods for conditions.

Sooner or later all children will become ill. We appreciate this can cause problems with childcare arrangements. It is recommended that you find out about your employer's parental leave policies, or make arrangements with a relative to care for your child until they are fit enough to come back to nursery.

Guidance on infection control is in office, and in each provision room.

Last review July 2020

