

04 Health procedures

04.5 Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea, or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager/supervisor calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf. However, if we are unable to contact a parent, we shall follow our Uncollected Child Policy. If no-one collects the child within 30 minutes or no-one can be contacted to collect the child, we apply the procedures for uncollected children and contact the local Authority Children's Social Services Team:

Children's Services Department

Hampshire County Council

Elizabeth II Court North

The Castle Winchester

SO23 8UG

Telephone: 0300 555 1384

- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, and are kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using Fever Scans or other means i.e., ear thermometer.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called, and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for at least **48** hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are normally asked to keep children home for at least **48** hours following the last episode. However, during an Epidemic and Pandemic children must be kept off for **72** hours following the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.
- Some activities such as sand and water play, and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The Setting Manager notifies the Centre Manager if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.

- The Setting Manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The Setting Manager or Supervisor calls NHS111 and informs parents.
- Rash anywhere on face or body See a GP to have the rash diagnosed. (NOTE If this rash does not fade/disappear under the pressure of a clear drinking glass you must seek urgent medical advice by calling 999). If your child is feeling well and **48 hours** have passed since the rash appeared and the GP has not been able to diagnose a specific illness, your child may return to Pre-School. **If your GP diagnoses a specific illness, please follow the exclusion times for that illness and notify the Pre-School.** Please note that if your child has an **infectious rash** they will need to **stay at home** until cream is being applied and they are no longer contagious.
- Conjunctivitis - Children will need to be using prescribed cream/eye drops/ointment from a GP before they can return to Pre-School and after **72 hours** have passed since starting to use the prescribed medication. Otherwise, if you prefer not to use a prescribed medication from a GP, they may return once the infection has cleared.
- Runny nose – If the mucus is green then your child is unwell and cannot attend Pre-School until the mucus becomes clear. If they have a persistent runny nose, then they should stay home for **48 hours**.
- Generally, under the weather / lethargic / tearful and sleepy - Please keep your child at home, poorly children do not want to be at Pre-School, they want to be at home snuggled up having cuddles. If you bring them in, please be prepared to be either turned away at the door or you must come and collect them within 20 minutes of our call, if we feel they are not coping at Pre-School. **DO NOT** dose them with Calpol or any paracetamol or ibuprofen medication before they attend, this may mask a temperature and put other children, their families, and staff at risk, especially during a pandemic or epidemic.

HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces, or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces, or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces, or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- Parents will be asked to keep/take their child home until they have been treated and in exceptional cases may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

****Paracetamol based medicines (e.g., Calpol)**

The use of paracetamol-based medicine may not be agreed in all cases. A setting cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis unless there is an immediate reason for doing so. We do not normally keep such medicine on the premises as we are not allowed to 'prescribe'. Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can come to or stay in the care of the setting for a normal day. This use of emergency medicine does **not** apply to children over 2 years old. A child over two who is not well, and has a temperature, must be kept cool and the parents asked to collect straight away.

Whilst the brand name Calpol is referenced, there are other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief such as Nurofen for children over 3 months.

Please note that our Pandemic and Epidemic Policy will override this Policy for children who present with a temperature, cough, runny nose, sore throat, suspected ear infection/urine infection/tonsillitis, or conjunctivitis.

Further guidance

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

Medication Administration Record (Early Years Alliance 2019)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf