

Sick Children Policy

Sick children and medicine

We make every effort to keep abreast of new information relating to infectious, notifiable and communicable diseases and local health issues.

Children who are unwell, or may have an infectious illness should not attend pre-school. We ask parents/carers to notify us if a child is unwell.

- If a child becomes ill during the preschool day, the parent(s) or emergency contacts will be notified and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. Whilst awaiting collection the child will be cared for in a calm, quiet area by their keyworker or another familiar adult.
 - We isolate a child if we feel that other children or staff are at risk, but would ensure they were visually monitored.
 - We contact parents to take children home if they are feeling unwell/being sick/have diarrhoea/have had an accident/may have an infectious disease.
 - We will phone for an ambulance if appropriate (see process below).
 - We will seek advice from 111 or the child's doctor if necessary.
 - We ring emergency contact numbers if the parent or carer cannot be reached.
 - We make every effort to care for the child in a sympathetic, caring and sensitive manner.
 - We respect the parents' right to confidentiality.
 - We keep other parents informed about any infectious diseases that occur at First Steps
 - We expect parents to inform First Steps if their child is suffering from any illness or disease that may put others at risk as soon as possible.
 - We will use a sickness tracking form should a child present as ill or miss sessions on a regular basis.
- Information about head lice can be found at www.onceaweektakeapeek.com or on the NHS website. If you would like further information please ask a member of staff. 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. Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents 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.

Medicines

- We will administer non-prescription medicines to children when there is a health reason to do so and we have written parental consent. These include teething gel/cough mixture/allergy creams and pills/travel sickness pills. After 3 days we may ask for a doctor's prescription. We do not administer any medicines containing aspirin (See Administration of Medicines policy).
- We administer life-saving prescription medicines for asthma/diabetes/epilepsy/epi pen with written permission. We keep a record of how much and how often a child needs his or her medication.
- We store medicines out of the reach of children.

Exclusion due to illness

- We advise that children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting are kept at home for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea. Some children may require longer if advised by the PHE or by the child's doctor.
- Children absent from pre-school due to infection from infectious diseases are advised to be absent from pre-school for the length of time advised by the PHE (Public Health England), or by the child's doctor, during

which time they will not be charged fees. Absence after this period will be charged as usual or at the pre-school's discretion. Children must not return to pre-school before the period advised.

Lists of infectious diseases where fees will not be charged are those advised by the government as communicable, notifiable or infectious. Commonly these will include; Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Whooping cough, Mumps, Meningitis, Shingles (in some cases), Scarlet Fever, Rubella, Measles, Typhoid (and paratyphoid) (See Appendix).

Phoning 999

In the case of urgent hospitalisation staff would contact the child's parent(s)/carers or emergency contacts as stated within their registration forms. In the event of not being able to get a response from these contacts, a member of staff would accompany the child to hospital and remain with them until the child's parents/carer attends the hospital. If the child's parents have not made contact within the usual timeframe of preschool, a discussion would be held with the hospital regarding their policy for safeguarding children.

In the event of this occurring and the preschool being under ratio, additional support will be called in in the form of bank staff or other employees of First Step Preschool or Fountain of Life. Failing this the list of designated people within close proximity will be contacted (contact numbers kept within the register). Failing the attendance of additional support, emergency closure procedures would be implemented as quickly as possible.

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/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and 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.
- Baby mouthing toys are kept clean and plastic toys cleaned in sterilising solution regularly.

Linked policies

Administration of Medicines

Sun and Snow

Documents

'Guidance on Infection Control in schools and other childcare settings' 2014 Public Health England.

To see the list of contagious illnesses and advice on exclusion periods from school:

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

Legal Framework

Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984

Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010

Appendix

List of notifiable diseases (subject to change/updates):

Diseases notifiable to local authority proper officers under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010:

- Acute encephalitis
- Acute infectious hepatitis
- Acute meningitis
- Acute poliomyelitis
- Anthrax
- Botulism
- Brucellosis
- Cholera
- Diphtheria
- Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
- Food poisoning
- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
- Infectious bloody diarrhoea
- Invasive group A streptococcal disease
- Legionnaires' disease
- Leprosy
- Malaria
- Measles
- Meningococcal septicaemia
- Mumps
- Plague
- Rabies
- Rubella
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Scarlet fever
- Smallpox
- Tetanus
- Tuberculosis
- Typhus
- Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
- Whooping cough
- Yellow fever

Report other diseases that may present significant risk to human health under the category 'other significant disease'.