



Policy Statement

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers.

Procedures

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) or carers will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area, supervised by a member of staff wearing PPE. They will not be allowed contact with other children.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours and may not return to nursery until 8 am on the 3rd day. Children with conjunctivitis should stay off nursery for 24 hours but may return to nursery with eyedrops which have been prescribed by their GP. Eyedrops which are purchased over the counter and which do not have a prescription will not be acceptable.
- If a child has a temperature which reaches 37.8 degrees or above we will contact the parents informing them that their child has a temperature. Parents will be required to collect the child as soon as possible (and within an hour).
- Any child with any symptom of COVID-19 (however mild) must be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptoms started. Only a negative PCR test can break the 10 day isolation period. Lateral flow tests are not suitable and not acceptable for children under 12. Parents refusing to get their child tested will need to stay at home for the full 10 days. However, if the child tests negative within this time-frame, they can return to nursery once they have been clear of a temperature for 24 hours and they feel well enough. Parents should check with the nursery manager if they are unsure whether or not to bring their child back.
- The COVID-19 symptoms are: a new continuous cough, a temperature of 37.8 and above, loss of taste or smell
- It remains unacceptable to dose a child with medication in the morning before they come to nursery in order to reduce temperature. We recognise that some children may develop a temperature due to other conditions but due to the pandemic and new variants we continue to follow the advice from PHE.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection. Although conjunctivitis is not necessarily an excludable condition, it will remain at the discretion of the manager when the child may return as it is a highly contagious infection.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which require socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course, unless in special circumstances as mentioned above.



Safeguarding & Welfare: Sick or Unwell Children

- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
- Information/posters about head lice are readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. 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 with head lice should be treated at home with an effective lotion or oil to remove all live head lice and eggs. The child should be checked daily and hair should be combed through with conditioner every 3 days until Day 10. It is advisable to treat the hair with an effective lotion on Day 10. If a child is found to have head lice during the nursery day parent will be contacted to collect the child. Head lice are extremely contagious, and whilst no child or parent should ever feel embarrassed – it is necessary to keep child at home until they have been treated.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager should 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.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital or at the nursery.
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

This policy was implemented in Kidz Kabin: **September 2011**

Name & position of authorised person: **Linda Symons / Director**

The policy was reviewed and updated in: **June 2021**

Name of authorised person: **Linda Symons**