Little Drummers Pre-School  
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Health

**4.5 Ill or infectious children**

**Aim:**

We provide care for healthy children and promote this by adopting the following procedure if a child becomes unwell during the session. If staff feel that a child is too unwell to attend setting or is informed of an infectious illness by parents in the morning, they will refuse admittance of the child to the setting.

**Procedure:**

**Child ill at home**

* Parents are provided with a list of infectious diseases prior to their child starting at the setting. This outlines the name, possible signs and symptoms, the duration of the illness and how long they need to stay away from the setting.
* If a child is to be absent from the pre-school parents are asked to phone and inform staff of their child’s absence and the nature their illness, within an hour of their child’s start time. If the setting has not been informed a member of staff will make, contact with the family.
* If appropriate (infectious illness) staff will inform other parents of the illness, via a memo on tapestry. This will detail the illness the signs and symptoms and the exclusion period.
* Staff will be aware of illness ‘going around’ and inform parents as soon as possible.
* If a child requires paracetamol/ibuprofen e.g., Calpol, Nurofen, before attending pre-school for illnesses such as temperature, headaches, cold/flu like symptoms, they are to stay at home until they are clear of these symptoms. See exclusions below.

**Children who become unwell within setting**

* If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea, or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – a staff member (usually the child’s key person) will call the parents and ask them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
* If a child has a temperature, they will be kept cool, by removing top clothing, being offered sips of cool water, and kept away from draughts. Emergency liquid paracetamol will be administered if permission is given by the parent/carer. A 04.2a medication form will be completed and available for parents to sign on collection.
* Their temperature will be taken using a digital ear thermometer kept near to the first aid box. A temperature is anything 38 degrees or above.
* If needed, the supervisor will call an ambulance for the child and the parents will be informed of where their child is being taken.
* The child will be required to stay away from pre-school until they are fit and well, following the exclusion periods below.

**High Levels of Sickness Amongst Staff or Children**

Infections can spread easily in early years settings where groups of children, whose young immune systems are still developing, share activities and play closely together. Although most cases of illness in settings is minor, some infections have serious health implications. In all cases, infections need to be managed effectively by the setting to prevent an outbreak. This may mean short term closures.

Closures may also be necessary if staff become ill and there are not enough practitioners to maintain the ratio’s determined by The Early Years Foundation Stage (2023) Statutory Requirements.

If the setting does not have enough staff to admit all children expected to attend a session, they will use the following system:

A tiered system, prioritised in the following order until the correct staff: child ratio is reached:

1. Children with working parents
2. Children with safeguarding needs
3. Children with additional needs
4. Children receiving Pupil Premium
5. First come first served basis until ratio is reached.

Please note: The setting will do its’ utmost best to offer every child unable to attend their session another session.

**Notifiable diseases**

* If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (infectious diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
* When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

**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.

# Nits and head lice

* 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.

**Antibiotics**

If a child or adult requires antibiotics for an illness, they will need to stay away from Pre-school for the first 24hours. This is to ensure there are no adverse effects of the medication.

**Exclusion periods**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Illness** | **Exclusion period** | **Comments** |
| Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea | 48hrs after last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting |  |
| Temperature | 24hrs after temperature has peaked and until child is feeling well |  |
| Scarlet fever | 5 days after starting antibiotics |  |
| Strep A | 24 hrs from 1st dose of antibiotics |  |
| Immunisations | 24 hours from when immunisations are given |  |
| Chicken pox | Until all spots have scabbed over, and child is feeling well |  |
| Hand, foot, and mouth | Until all spots have scabbed and until child is feeling well |  |
| Covid-19 | 3 days after positive test and until child is feeling well | Testing is no longer recommended for young children. If your child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms we ask you follow this exclusion period |
| E. coli | 48hrs after last episode of diarrhoea |  |
| Influenza (Flu) | Until recovered | This can be prevented through immunisation |
| Whooping cough | 5 days from commencing antibiotic treatment. If no antibiotic treatment is used 21 days from onset of illness | This can be prevented through immunisation |
| Cold sores (herpes simplex) | Until lesions are crusted over and healed | Must avoid any contact with sores |
| German measles (Rubella) | 5 days from onset of rash and child is feeling well. | This can be prevented through immunisation |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted or healed | Antibiotics may speed recovery |
| Measles | 5 days from onset of rash and until the child is feeling well | This can be prevented through immunisation |
| Ringworm | Until treatment has commenced | Treatment can be sought through pharmacy. Ringworm of the scalp needs to be treated by a GP. |
| Scabies | Until treatment has commenced |  |
| Slapped cheek | None, provided child is well enough to attend | Please inform staff if your child has slapped cheek |
| Shingles | Exclusion only necessary if rash is weeping and cannot be covered. | Please inform staff if your child has shingles |
| Conjunctivitis | Until treatment has commenced, or eyes are clear. |  |
| Diphtheria | Until illness has completely cleared | This can be prevented through vaccination |
| Glandular fever | Until child is feeling well |  |
| Headlice | None | Treatment is recommended. |
| Meningitis (all types) | Until fully recovered |  |
| Mumps | 5 days from onset of swollen glands and until child is feeling well | This can be prevented through vaccination |
| Threadworm | None | Treatment for infected and everyone in household is recommended |

**This is not an exhausted list; each illness will be based on an individual basis.**

Adapted by- Kirsty Simpson Committee Chairperson

Position- Manager Emma Brisley

Sign- K.Simpson Sign- E.Brisley

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