

Bright Sparks Private Day Nursery Limited

Sickness and Illness Policy

At Bright Sparks, we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection we do not expect children to attend Nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with parents/carers.

Our Procedures

In order to take appropriate action if children become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If children become ill during the course of the Nursery day, we endeavour to ensure their comfort whilst awaiting collection by a parent/guardian if this is deemed necessary. Early Years Practitioners should raise awareness of the illness with their senior colleagues, who in turn will alert the Officer-In-Charge or the Nursery Principal. It is the responsibility of the Senior Nursery Nurses, the Officer-In-Charge or the Principal to determine whether or not the child in question needs to be collected (based on whether or not we can continue to safely meet the needs of the child at Nursery and follow our infection control procedures). If we are unable to continue to care for the child, parents will be asked to collect them or other emergency contacts provided by parents upon registration.
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery.
- We take children's initial temperatures to assess illness and monitor and record this and any other relevant information until collection.
- Where children's illness progresses quickly, we may call an ambulance if parents have not arrived and it is necessary that they receive prompt medical attention.
- Ill children are placed in a cool area (if necessary) with their Key Person (wherever possible) to supervise and comfort, whilst awaiting collection.
- If a child has diarrhoea or has had two loose nappies, parents are informed and the child is sent home. Parents are asked to keep the child off for at least 48 hours after the last loose nappy. Children experiencing sickness should not return to Nursery until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. We notify OFSTED as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where a child or staff member presents with food poisoning.
- Should a child have an infectious disease such as an eye/ear infection, they should not return to Nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they become ill and require a course of anti-biotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on anti-biotics for the first 48 hours of the course. This also allows time for the medication to take effect and gives parents the chance to assess whether the child is experiencing any side effects from the medication (unless this is part of an on-going care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell).

- Any known instances of illness within the nursery are displayed in the reception area. We will also support parents to spot the early signs of relevant illnesses by displaying information or posters. It is at the discretion of parents to bring children into the setting when a bout of contagious illness strikes.
- If a child or staff member has any of the Notifiable Diseases displayed in the office, confirmed by a doctor, our local PHE centre would be contacted and the child/staff member must be kept away from nursery for at least 48 hours or longer if the recommendations suggest so.
- Where there is concern regarding the accurate diagnosis of an illness, or if the Principal suspects that the health of other children may be compromised as a result of suspected infection, it is at the discretion of the Principal to exclude anybody for whom this may be relevant.
- If we are made aware of an instance of infectious illness, we endeavour to sterilise the equipment that the child/ren in question have come into contact with.
- If we suspect that a child has head lice, parents are asked to collect them immediately and to seek advice about treatment from a pharmacist. Parents should check their child's hair regularly and instances of head lice should be reported to staff in order that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis or sepsis, 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. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

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
- The most appropriate 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. Remaining staff will be redeployed where necessary to ensure adequate cover for the remaining children.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

Useful contact numbers for advice about childhood illnesses:

Mansfield Community Paediatrics 01623 622515 ext. 6444

Kings Mill Accident and Emergency 01623 672214

OFSTED 0300 123 1231

East Midlands PHE Centre 0344 225 4524

Updated by Frankie Wood February 2018

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