

## Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Coin Street Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending, including their oral health. 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 adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.

We promote children's health and wellbeing by:

- asking staff, volunteers and visitors not to attend the setting when they are unwell or during any applicable public health exclusion period;
- providing healthy, balanced and nutritious meals, snacks and drinks, having regard to current Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance;
- supporting good oral-health habits and sharing age-appropriate oral-health information with families;
- reducing infection through effective hand hygiene, cleaning, safe management of bodily-fluid spills and the measures set out in our Infection Control Policy;
- providing regular access to outdoor play and maintaining good ventilation indoors;
- sharing reliable information about the childhood vaccination programme; and
- signposting families to current government and NHS advice on vitamins for children aged six months to five years, including relevant exceptions for children receiving sufficient infant formula.
- providing suitable areas for rest and sleep where required and sharing safe, age-appropriate sleep information with families.

### Our procedures

To take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible. While awaiting collection, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person wherever possible. Staff use personal protective equipment only where required by the task and our infection-control procedures, undertake frequent checks, record relevant observations, and seek urgent medical advice if the child's condition deteriorates.
- We follow current UK Health Security Agency guidance on health protection and public health exclusion periods in children and young people's settings, together with advice from our local UKHSA health protection team. Exclusion periods are applied according to the identified or suspected infection rather than by a blanket rule.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have been in contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection

- We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days, of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
- A child who has been prescribed antibiotics is not automatically excluded for the first 48 hours. Attendance is decided according to the child's wellbeing, the underlying illness, current UKHSA exclusion guidance and any individual healthcare plan. Parents must tell the nursery about prescribed medicine that may need to be administered during the session, in line with our Medicines Policy.
- We may refuse admission, or ask for a child to be collected, when they are too unwell to participate comfortably, require care that cannot safely be provided without compromising other children, or must be excluded under current public health guidance. The manager on duty will make a proportionate decision based on the child's individual circumstances, current guidance and any medical or public-health advice, and will explain the decision to the parent or carer.
- We make information/posters about head lice 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.
- Where an unusual number of cases, a serious infection or a suspected outbreak occurs, the manager will seek advice promptly from the local UKHSA health protection team, follow any enhanced cleaning, communication, record-keeping and exclusion measures advised, and notify Ofsted or other authorities where legally required.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the local UKHSA health protection team and follow the guidance provided, including any advice about communication with families and staff. We will notify Ofsted and other appropriate authorities where required. If meningitis or sepsis is suspected while a child is at nursery, staff must call 999 immediately and must not wait for a rash or for all symptoms to appear. The child will be kept under continuous supervision and emergency first-aid procedures followed until help arrives.

### **We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.**

The room leader/staff member must:

- Inform a member of the nursery management team immediately
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle
- Follow the instructions from the 999-call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter

- Always remain calm. 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.

### **Non-ambulance transport**

Staff must not transport a seriously unwell child in a private vehicle. For non-emergency hospital assessment, the parent or carer should normally collect and transport the child. If an exceptional, necessary journey in a staff vehicle is authorised by the manager, written or recorded parental permission must be obtained wherever practicable and the following controls must be met:

- the nursery's staffing ratios and safe deployment arrangements remain in place;
- a suitable, legally compliant child restraint is used; children under three must not travel in a private vehicle without the correct child car seat;
- the driver is appropriately licensed and the vehicle is roadworthy, insured for business use and not overloaded;
- at least one additional adult accompanies the child as an escort and carries relevant emergency contacts, health information and medication;
- the designated manager records and oversees the arrangements, including what to do if the child's condition deteriorates; and
- no one smokes or vapes in the vehicle.

Wherever possible, an ambulance, licensed taxi with lawful restraint arrangements, or transport by the parent or carer will be used instead of a staff member's private vehicle.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually, whenever relevant statutory or public-health guidance changes, and after any significant illness, outbreak or hospital attendance. Learning from incidents will be recorded and used to update procedures, staff training and risk controls.

| <b>This policy was adopted on</b> | <b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b> | <b>Date for review</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>August 2021</i>                | <i>Jane Christofi</i>                  | <i>September 2027</i>  |