

## 04 Health procedures

### 04.5 Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then (preferably) the key person or staff member working with the child that day calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using thermometer.
- If a baby's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then Calpol may be given after gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies under 2 years old. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child. If Calpol is given to a child because of a high temperature, a parent must collect their child to take home.
- Children must not attend the setting if they have been given Calpol as this could be masking a serious illness and it is more difficult for staff to recognise the signs. The child can attend on the same day if 4 hours has passed since their last dose.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease. Temperatures require one full day 'temp' free and sickness and diarrhoea we follow NHS 48 hour exclusion from last episode.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- If a child has diarrhoea, the child is closely monitored and if this is abnormal for them and they have another 2 episodes their parents are contacted to collect.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies the owner if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

### **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/slucing 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.

### **Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)**

A setting cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis, unless there is an immediate reason for doing so. Settings do not normally keep such medicine on the premises as they are not allowed to 'prescribe'. However, given the risks to very young babies of high temperatures, the risk of not administering may be greater. In all cases, parents of children under two years must sign to say they agree to the setting administering paracetamol-based medicine in the case of high temperature on the basis that they are on their way to collect. Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of the setting for a normal day. The use of emergency medicine does not apply to children over 2 years old unless a Healthcare plan is in place. A child over two who is not well, and has a temperature, must be kept cool and the parents asked to collect straight away.

*Whilst the brand name Calpol is referenced, there are other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief such as Nurofen for children over 3 months.*

### **Further guidance**

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

Medication Administration Record (Early Years Alliance 2019)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)