



Absent Child / Sickness Policy

If your child should be unable to attend our setting on their nominated day, we would ask that you call us to give an explanation by phone, text, or email. If we do not have notice, an explanation of absence, we will endeavour to contact you that day. If we fail to make contact within 48 hours by phone or mail, this may result in Beehive centre contacting Children's Services. (This is in accordance with the Children's Act 2004.)

This policy reflects the vision and aims of this Beehive centre by:

- Encouraging staff, parents/carers, and children to maximise the learning experience in order that all children reach their full potential.
- Providing clear procedures for involving parents/carers relating to the setting attendance.

PRINCIPLES

Regular and punctual attendance is of paramount importance in ensuring that all children have full access to our sessions. Valuable learning time is lost when children are absent or late and research has shown the negative effect of absence.

Children should be at Beehive centre, on time, every day the setting is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. Children should arrive at the setting on time. Notes are recorded on the register as to the reason for the late arrival. If a child is reluctant to attend the setting, communication between parent and Beehive centre is encouraged.

Please inform us if your child is a little unwell at the start of sessions.

This way we can monitor him or her throughout the day for worsening symptoms and be aware that their general disposition may be altered due to illness or fatigue. Additionally, we will take extra steps to sanitise the environment to prevent the spreading of illness to other children, staff, or visitors.

TOO SICK TO ATTEND?

It may be determined that your child is too sick for sessions. The following signs and symptoms are indications that your child is ill and not able to participate in therapy:

- **Diarrhoea:** You must keep your child at home. Your child should be diarrhoea-free for at least 48 hours before returning to the centre. If your child has two occurrences of diarrhoea during therapy, you will be notified and asked to make arrangements to pick your child up from services—no exceptions.

- **Fever:** You must keep your child at home, even if the fever has been tempered by medication, we are only able to provide your child with emergency paracetamol, if a fever should occur during therapy. If a fever occurs during therapy, you will be notified and asked to make arrangements for collection of your child. Your child can return to services once they are fever free and not depending on medication to regulate their temperature.
- **Vomiting:** You must keep your child at home. Your child should be free of symptoms for at least 48 hours before resuming therapy, especially if the vomiting occurs in conjunction with symptoms of influenza or infection. If your child vomits during therapy, you will be called to pick them up from the centre. Please note, that if your child vomits due to anxiety or other behavioural reasons, our clinical team will work with you to address this, and it will not impact therapy sessions.
- **Contagious illnesses:** If your child has a contagious illness such as unexplained rash, conjunctivitis, etc., we will follow the NHS recommendations concerning attendance and periods of exclusion from the centre. If Beehive Centre has three confirmations of a contagious illness, this information will be communicated to our families.
- **Cold/Flu:** Use your best judgment whether your child is well enough to participate in therapy. If you do opt to have your session, please let us know that your child has cold or flu symptoms. If symptoms worsen or your child is unable to perform at their typical level due to apparent illness, you may be called to pick up your child from the centre early.

Absent Child/ Sickness Policy Is effective from: **01/04/24** until further notice.