



## Sickness and illness policy

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48

At Cheeky Monkeys Day Nursery, we promote the good health of all children attending including oral health by:

- Asking parents/carers to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers.
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell.
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals and drinks.
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes (see infection control policy) Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside.
- Sharing information with parents/carers about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases.
- Sharing information from the Department of Health that all children aged 6 months - 5 years should take a daily vitamin.
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information about the importance of sleep and how many hours young children should be having.

### Our procedures

In order 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)/carer(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with a member of staff (wearing PPE), wherever appropriate.
- A fever is considered 37.8°C or more but if we discover a child has a fever of over 38°C we will seek permission from the parent/carers to administer Infant Paracetamol in order to bring their temperature down to a safer level whilst we await collection.
- If a parent/carers cannot be contacted in a timely manner and a child has a high fever of over 38°C or more and has been in our care for over 4 hours, then we may administer infant paracetamol in order to try and reduce the fever to a safer level (as long as previous permission to have paracetamol has been sought and signed for by parent/carers). If a child has been in our care for less than 4 hours, then we will seek medical advice accordingly via 111 and their advice and expertise will supersede all policies and procedures in place.
- Children who have had infant Paracetamol/Ibuprofen should not attend nursery as this can mask symptoms of fever and increase the risk of illness to others. If a child needs medication to reduce a fever, then they should be at home until they recover.
- We follow the guidance published by Public Health England 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 and staff in the nursery.

- Should a child have an infectious illness, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. (Children will be sent home from nursery if they vomit or have two or more episodes of diarrhoea.)
- We inform all parents/carers 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 come into 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 the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
- We ask parents/carers to keep children who are on antibiotics at home for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because 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 have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics.
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
- We make information/posters about head lice readily available, and all parents/carers are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent/carer finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents/carers can be alerted to check their child's hair. If we find headlice in nursery that are moving around, we will call parents/carers and ask them to collect their child so an appropriate treatment can be given and to reduce the spread to other children. Once treatment has been completed, we ask parents/carers to continue to be vigilant as sometimes head lice can recur imminently. Further treatment and maintenance are recommended.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

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

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Inform a member of the 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.

- 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.

**If a child has an accident that may require hospital treatment but not an ambulance, we may need to transport children in our own vehicles. This will be carried out providing:**

- Permission is obtained from parents/carers and strictly on the understanding they are not able to do this themselves (e.g., no access to transport). In this instance a driver and additional first aid trained member of staff should escort the child.
- Ratio requirements of the setting can be maintained.
- We have an appropriate car seat which is installed correctly and safely in accordance with the child's needs and the law. Further guidance can be found at [www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/).
- There are some exceptions for needing a child seat depending again on their age. Further guidance can be found at [www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/cars-taxis-private-hire-vehicles-vans-and-goods-vehicles/#under-three](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/cars-taxis-private-hire-vehicles-vans-and-goods-vehicles/#under-three).
- With the fitting of the car seat, we also need to ask has the individual had training in carrying in carrying this out.
- Only if staff transport is covered under business insurance and has a first aid qualification.
- Safeguarding of the child will also need to be looked at. In certain situations, e.g., a designated member of staff should be appointed to plan and provide oversight of all transporting arrangements and respond to any difficulties that may arise. Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort. Staff should ensure that the transport arrangements and the vehicle meet all legal requirements. They should ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately insured and that the maximum capacity is not exceeded.
- If a child deteriorates at any time during a journey an ambulance must be called immediately, and the first aid trained member of staff needs to support the injured/ill child until the ambulance arrives.

**Parents/carers need to ensure that they or an appropriate guardian are available to be contacted or to collect children at all times for the purpose of safeguarding children in our care and meeting their health and wellbeing needs.**

This policy will be reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a significant incident, e.g., serious illness/hospital visit required.

This policy was updated on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
27/06/2024		27/06/2025