



## Sick and Illness Policy

Children should not be left at a session if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at Forest School with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children on site:

- If a child becomes ill during the day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible, preferably within the hour. During this time, the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key carer.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an eye/ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to site until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- Children with conjunctivitis can attend if they are being treated unless there are a number of cases as stated by the NHS Guidance. (<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Conjunctivitis-infective/Pages/Introduction.aspx>)
- Children who have been diagnosed with hand foot and mouth are required to remain at home for the first 48 hours after diagnosis to reduce the risk of spreading to other children. They can return when parents feel they are well enough, although the Nature Box reserves the right to refuse admission in cases where they feel the child is not well enough to attend.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox to protect other children. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.
- If a contagious infection is identified, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the forest school 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. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (subject to management discretion) to ensure if they have an allergic reaction to the medication they can get immediate medical attention as required.
- The Nature Box has 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.
- Information/posters about head lice are 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.

## **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs us that their child has meningitis, the manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Ofsted The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the setting, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

## **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.
- A senior 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.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

## **Ofsted should be notified about:**

- food poisoning which affects two or more children
- any child who has meningitis
- the outbreak on the premises of any notifiable disease\*

\*a notifiable disease is one identified as such in the Public Health (control of diseases) Act 1984 or the Public Health (infectious diseases) Regulations 1988

## **Diseases notifiable under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010:**

Acute encephalitis

Acute infectious hepatitis

Acute meningitis

Acute poliomyelitis

Anthrax

Botulism

Brucellosis

Cholera

Diphtheria

Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)

Food poisoning

Haemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)

Infectious bloody diarrhoea  
Invasive group A streptococcal disease 10b  
Legionnaires' Disease  
Leprosy  
Malaria  
Measles  
Meningococcal septicaemia  
Mumps  
Plague  
Rabies  
Rubella  
SARS  
Scarlet fever  
Smallpox  
Tetanus  
Tuberculosis  
Typhus  
Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)  
Whooping cough  
Yellow fever.

### **Staff Illness**

If a staff member becomes ill during a session they will be sent home as soon as possible. Management will make best effort to ensure staff to child ratios are met, using DBS checked wood lane staff in the case of an emergency.

If a staff member is unwell prior to a session they must notify management of absence as soon as possible to ensure sessions are not disrupted by a phone call to Charlotte.

For sickness and diarrhoea staff must stay off work for 48hrs after the last episode

Staff who have been ill should contact management by 3.30pm the day before they are expected to work of their intention to return to work the next day. Staff will complete a return to work form and meet with management for a short back to work meeting to ensure they are well and supported in their return to work.

Management have a duty to ensure that staff returning to work after illness, accident or grieving have the necessary things in place to ensure the return is smooth and supported.

Management team have a right to discuss matters of continuous absences from work with staff. This will be discussed sensitively and logged in the staff members file. Matters discussed are strictly confidential and should only be shared with the necessary people in the case of offering support.