

Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48

At Little Monkeys Charlbury we promote the good health of all children attending including oral health by:

- Asking parents* 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 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:

- It is a parent's role to ensure they inform us if they have given any medication to their child before they attend nursery. We will not administer medicine to a child with out parental permission, but to safeguard children we must know what they have been given before they are in our care.
- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(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 their key person (wearing PPE), wherever possible
- We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) 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 in the nursery¹
- 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 will not routinely give liquid paracetamol (Calpol) to a child for anything other than teething, a parent will always be asked before we administer medication. Children who need Calpol for any other reason may not be well enough to attend nursery.
- If a child has a temperature over 38, they must remain away from nursery for at least 24 hours and until the temperature returns to normal without analgesics.
- Children who have been ill cannot return to nursery part way through a day. For example, if a child is sent home at 2pm on Monday with a temperature, they can return to nursery from 8am on Wednesday.
- 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 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.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

- The nursery will administer medicine to a child prescribed by a doctor, and we reserve the right to refuse to administer ‘over the counter’ medication. Should the child be on prescribed medication, it is the responsibility of the parent or carer to notify the manager or key worker and to sign the necessary form of consent prior to any medication being given. The nursery will only administer medication prescribed for the child and all medication must be in the original container with the child’s name clearly labelled.
- We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 24 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 and to ensure the child tolerates the medication well.
- 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 and 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.

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.

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.

* For the purpose of this publication the term ‘parents’ will be used to describe all types of primary caregivers, such as biological and adoptive parents, foster carers and guardians.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>25th January 2024</i>	<i>Kelly Harley</i>	<i>25th January 2025</i>

