4. Health Procedures

4.5 Poorly Children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, the parents are contacted and informed. Whether or not the child needs to be collected will depend on the symptoms displayed.

- A fever is a high temperature. Most fevers in children are not serious and are due to the common infections of childhood such as coughs, colds and other viral infections. However, sometimes a fever is a symptom of a serious infection. As a general rule in children, a temperature of over 37.5C (99.5F) is a fever. If a child has a high temperature, we will –

  - keep the room cool (18ºC (64.4ºF) is about right) and make sure fresh air is circulating.
  - not undress your child or sponge them down to cool them – fever is a natural and healthy response to infection. If your child is shivering or sweating a lot, we will change the amount of clothes they are wearing.
  - make sure your child has plenty of cool water to drink to prevent dehydration even if they are not thirsty and give them food if they want it.
  - Inform the parents/carers
  - If a child's temperature reaches and/or exceeds 38 ℃ the parent/carer, or emergency contact, will be asked to come and collect their child.
  - Calpol (5ml) will be administered* if their temperature continues to be a concern before they can be collected. An ambulance will be called if the child's condition deteriorates whilst waiting to be collected.

**Written consent for administering Calpol needs to be given on the registration form and verbal consent given when parents/emergency contacts are informed of the high temperature. The Manager or Assistant Manager will make the decision for Calpol to be administered.*

We will not –

- cover a child up in too many clothes or bedding
- strip or sponge a child down
- give aspirin

- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly and recorded.

- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning their child to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

- We will not routinely administer Calpol or any other similar paracetamol to prevent or manage fevers. Calpol will only be administered in an emergency, as stated above, or if it has been advised by a medical professional in order to manage pain relief. Any Calpol required to manage pain relief in this instance will need to be supplied by the parents/carers.

- Calpol will not be administered to manage any side effects of immunisations. If a child begins to feel unwell after any immunisations, they will need to be collected from Pre School.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, they may attend pre-school as long as they are well within themselves and are not contagious.
- If a child has two unexplained loose stools whilst at the setting, the parents will be called and asked to arrange collection of the child. Parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode. We reserve the right to extend the 48-hour period if an outbreak occurs. An outbreak is defined as a case/cases which are required to be reported to Public Health England (PHE). Parents/carers will be notified, should this situation arise.
- If a child vomits at the setting, consideration is given to the 'bigger picture' i.e. are they eating? What have they eaten? Are they upset? If there is no obvious cause of the vomiting, parents will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible.

- Some activities, such as sand and water play and self-serve snack, will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.

- For all other infections, exclusion will be for the period recommended on the Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings published by the Health Protection Agency available at www.hpa.org.uk

- The setting manager notifies the Chair of Committee if there is an outbreak of an infection and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event. The setting manager contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

- A list of notifiable communicable diseases can be found here https://www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases

- 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 assistant manager calls NHS111 and informs parents.

HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with bodily 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/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using absorbent granules and 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.

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 treatment methods if they are found.