

Sick Child Policy

Rationale

Horn End Nurseries recognises its responsibility to promote a culture where health issues are discussed in an open and positive way to achieve high standards. The health and well being of children is of paramount importance to enable them to learn. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment for all children we ask that you refrain from bringing your child to the nursery if he/she is sick and/or displaying signs of illness

Purposes

- § To ensure sick children are identified
- § To ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- § To protect children and adults from preventable infection
- § To enable staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when children are unwell

Guidelines

If a child is thought to be unwell within the setting it is important to assess the condition of the child. This should be done in a kind and caring manner. The child will may be distressed, so it is important to be calm and reassuring. The Nursery Manager should be informed of any sick children.

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily. However the decision of the Nursery Manager is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group.

Children with infectious or contagious diseases will be excluded for certain periods. If staff suspects that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before returning the child to the Nursery.

Should a child become ill whilst at nursery, the Nursery Manager/keyworker will contact the parent or an emergency contact. While awaiting the arrival of parents, the staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary. If the child is in danger, the staff will seek medical advice immediately.

Staff will report any worries about a child's health to the parents/guardians immediately. Parents are responsible for keeping the Nursery informed about the child's health.

We recommend that no child may attend the nursery while suffering from one of the communicable diseases and they should be excluded for the minimum periods recommended. Please see guidelines to illness / communicable diseases.

Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to be excluded but this depends on the severity and how the child is able to cope with the nursery routine. A child who is,

or who appears to be unwell may be refused admission.

Although exposure of children to a communicable disease is not in itself sufficient reason to require their exclusion from nursery, any child who becomes a home contact of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers will be excluded.

A child who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at the nursery is to be collected immediately and kept away for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Parents will always be contacted and informed if their child has a high temperature of 101F / 38C or above.

To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, suspected cases will be reported immediately to parents who will be requested to take their child from nursery to be seen by a Doctor.

Chicken Pox – children need to be absent from nursery for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash. After this time, if all the spots have dried and scabbed over, the child can return to nursery. Parents will also be contacted if their child develops a rash or suspected thrush. This will need to be checked by a Doctor whose advice should be followed.

If your child has not been his / her normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought to nursery, please mention it to the staff and let them know how best to contact you throughout the day.

Should the Nursery Manager or Deputy consider the illness / situation to warrant immediate medical attention, the emergency services will be contacted to take the child directly to Hospital and the parent / guardian notified accordingly.

At Horn End Nursery, we are committed to providing the highest standards of care for your child.

If you have any further enquiries, please feel free to request more information from our expert staff. We operate an 'Open Door' policy towards parents so please feel free to walk into our nursery at any time to discuss any concerns about your child.

Disease / Illness	Minimal Exclusion Period
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Diarrhoea / Vomiting Illnesses	
Diarrhoea / Vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
E.coli 0157 VTEC	Exclusion is important for some children - consult with your local Health Protection Unit
Typhoid* [and Paratyphoid*] (Enteric Fever)	Exclusion is important for some children - consult with your local Health Protection Unit
Shigella (Dysentery)	Exclusion may be necessary

Rashes / Skin Infections	
Athletes Foot	Is not a serious condition but treatment is recommended
Chicken Pox	Excluded for 5 days from the onset of the rash
Cold Sores (Herpes Simplex)	No exclusion necessary
German Measles (Rubella)*	Excluded for 5 days from the onset of the rash
Impetigo	Excluded until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles*	Excluded for 5 days from the onset of the rash
Molluscum Contagiosum	No exclusion necessary
Ringworm	Excluded until treatment commences
Roseola (Infantum)	No exclusion necessary
Scabies	Excluded until first treatment
Scarlet Fever*	Excluded for 5 days after commencing antibiotics
Slapped Cheek / Fifth Disease Parvovirus B19	No exclusion necessary
Shingles	Excluded until treated
Warts & Verrucae	No exclusion necessary

Respiratory Infections	
'Flu' (Influenza)	Excluded until recovered
Tuberculosis*	Consult with your local Health Protection Unit
Whooping cough* (Pertussis)	Excluded for five days from commencing anti-biotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment

* denotes a notifiable disease.

This list is advisory and should not be considered exhaustive.

In addition, we reserve the right to consult the NHS Direct website for further advice and information.