

## **Children's Sickness Policy and Procedures**

### **Aims**

To provide a healthy and safe environment for all children.

### **Policy**

We cannot accept any child who is unwell or who has had a serious infectious illness.

### **Procedure**

#### **Control of illness**

There may be occasions when a child is not so ill as to require medical care but nevertheless childcare would be unsuitable. If a child arrives at the setting and the practitioners on duty do not consider them well enough to attend, the parent/carers will be advised accordingly. We will make every effort to stop the spread of infection but can only do this with the co-operation of parent/carers. Here are some common childhood ailments and information on exclusion periods.

- Coughs, colds and sore throats – we appreciate that children often pick up cold viruses without being ill and accept they do not need to stay away from the setting. However, if they have a raised temperature, continued cough, or are unable to eat, then exclusion will be necessary.
- Any child with sickness and/ or diarrhoea (irregular for the child in question) must be kept away from the setting for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness and / or diarrhoea
- Depending on the exclusion period, children who have been prescribed antibiotics to treat an infection or illness should remain at home for at least 24 hours to ensure there are no adverse side effects. Prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication must be completed by the parent/carer in line with our medication policy. Children can return to the setting after 24 hours if they feel well enough to attend.
- If a child has been unwell with a contagious condition at home or at Weir Holm we will follow the exclusion time periods set out within the 'Health protection in education and childcare settings' exclusion table:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/exclusion-table>
- Temperatures – any child with a raised temperature, even if not accompanied by any other symptoms, should be kept away until their temperature returns to normal. As a general rule, a temperature of 38C (100.4F) or above is classified as a fever in children by the NHS. But this can vary from child to child. Some children may be ill with a lower temperature, while others may have a higher temperature and be perfectly well.

Further information on infectious diseases can be found on the Public Health England section of the Gov.uk website [www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases](http://www.gov.uk/topic/health-protection/infectious-diseases) Information on infection control can also be found in the documents entitled 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities' which is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapters-1-and-2-introduction-and-infections-in-childcare-settings](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapters-1-and-2-introduction-and-infections-in-childcare-settings)

## Illness - action for staff

- If a child becomes unwell during a session, make them comfortable in a quiet place and keep them under observation, noting any changes in condition and monitor temperature. Very sick children will not be left unattended. If there is a danger of vomiting, give a bowl or bucket. If there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood or bodily fluids disposable gloves, disposable masks and plastic aprons (found in First Aid backpack) should be worn. Wear disposable eye protection (or if reusable -decontaminate prior to next use) if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- If temperature is 38 degrees or above, parents to be contacted.
- Contact the child's parent/carer and give them precise details of the child's condition. Discuss with them the best course of action, eg. to collect the child. If unable to reach child's parent/carer we will contact the child's emergency contacts.
- Ask the parent/carer to keep them at home until s/he has recovered.
- If a parent/carer says that their child has been unwell but now seems to have recovered, ask for exact details and remind them that our policy is to ask them not to send a child to the setting for 48 hours after the final episode of sickness or diarrhoea or until back to normal temperature of below 38 degrees
- 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.