

# Abacus Nursery - Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Abacus Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not allow children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers and reduce the spread of infection.

## Our procedures

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day and we deem it in their best interest to return home, we contact their parent(s) in the order they have requested and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible (within 30 minutes). During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area wherever possible.
- We follow the guidance given to us 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 nursery
- As part of our 'New Child' paperwork all parents receive our 'Guide to childhood ailments and illnesses' information which along with other valuable information clearly states when a child cannot attend Abacus
- 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. In extreme situations i.e. a serious outbreak this time frame would be extended to 72 hours. 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 (see our 'Reduce the spread of infection' procedure).
- As a general rule of thumb; if a child has two very loose stools whilst at nursery they are sent home to prevent the risk of cross infection with other children and staff and maintain good health and hygiene in the nursery. However, we would use our initiative and if there were other factors or just one really bad bout of diarrhoea we would not wait for another before calling parents to collect.
- We are aware the use of Calpol to keep a temperature at bay also can hide any other (maybe serious) symptoms. Therefore where a child is sent home due to a high temperature they need to be free of the use of Calpol the following morning in order for them to return to nursery. However, we will call parents to collect their child again if their child is displaying any symptoms, behaving out of character, or not following their usual eating, sleeping patterns. This also applies for any Calpol given before nursery. If a child has had Calpol before nursery, we ask that they do not come in that same day, and only return when they are well again and not needing any medication/calpol.
- When we feel a child has a high temperature a senior member of staff will take use a digital thermometer to gain an accurate reading. If the temperature is unusually high it is always checked with our second digital thermometer and a head scan style thermometer. We also test the thermometer by taking the temperature of a staff member or a child we believe to be well as a bench mark. We always record the child's temperature and if high give water to drink, remove excess clothing and monitor. Where

we have concerns the temperature is taken again twenty minutes later (again recorded) to ensure the original reading was not due to any external causes (over dressed, excess activity, just woken etc). If still high we telephone parents to collect. However if there are any other worrying signs/symptoms we do not wait 20 minutes and risk putting a child's wellbeing in danger and contact parents immediately. It is not our policy or procedure to keep a child at nursery who is displaying a high temperature in case it may go down. A temperature is a clear indicator something is wrong and we must act quickly to promote a child's wellbeing.

A temperature is considered 'high' in a child under 5 years if 37.5oC or above (Paediatric First Aid 2016). In line with our Paediatric first aid training we are advised to contact parents as soon as a child becomes unwell. The areas of the brain that regulates body temperature (the hypothalamus) is not fully developed until around 4 years old, so if a child develops an infection, this can lead to the core temperature of the body quickly rising. Febrile convulsions (seizures) are nearly always triggered by a child's temperature rising rapidly (above 38oC) this is why it is so important children are collected by parents promptly.

- We offer to give an emergency dose of Calpol if a parent will be longer than 15 minutes or where we cannot reach a parent but only when written consent is in place.
- Administration is recorded and shared with parents upon collection. Also recorded on the child's 'Wellbeing record'. Nursery emergency Calpol is stored safely in the kitchen First Aid cupboard and checked each month by our First Aid co-ordinator to be in-date.
- Parents are asked to notify Nursery when they are keeping a child home due to any form of illness allowing us to not only keep our attendance records updated but to also make other parents aware on our notice board that we have an infectious ailment or illness going around. This is particularly important for pregnant ladies to know and those parents of children with medical conditions which make them more vulnerable to infections. We do not name children in the notice to maintain confidentiality.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 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
- Paperwork is in place for parents to complete when a child requires Antibiotics/medication during their time at Nursery.
- A record is maintain of all medication administered and shared with parents upon collection
- If a child has had an immunisation/vaccination, they cannot return that day as per Health Protection Agency advice as these immunisations contain live virus and a child may become poorly following an immunisation. If they have an adverse reaction please make us aware on their next day of attendance. All immunisations are recorded at Abacus to be sure we can let other parents know if we have any children (anonymous) attending who are at risk if they come into contact with non-immunised children. Please update us each time with dates from your 'red book' so our 'wellbeing log' for each child is maintained accurately.
- All health incidents are recorded on the Child's 'Wellbeing record'

- 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
- Information is available upon request about head lice. We do not exclude children with head lice but ask that they are treated before returning. 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 will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

#### Where a Hospital visit is required:

- An ambulance is requested immediately (we will not transport children in staff cars).
- Parents will be contacted next and made aware of the situation, and directed to the hospital.
- The most appropriate member of staff will accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter and stay with them until a parent arrives.
- Staff will be redeployed if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children who will be removed from the incident/affected child. Staff are aware that 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 will be provided.

Where an accident does not require an ambulance but a hospital visit is appropriate parents will be contacted and made aware of the accident and recommendation to visit Hospital. need to visit.

A Hospital/ paramedic/treatment disclaimer is in place and requires completion by a parent before a child can return to Nursery.

We understand children quickly deteriorate. This is why we take no risks in keeping a poorly child at nursery asking for them to be collected and allowing parents time to be seen by their doctor before surgeries close. Equally, children can quickly appear better when parents arrive to collect. This may be due to medication taking affect or just being in a quieter environment at home.

Children often present to us as 'under the weather' but we only send home when we really have to, in line with the criteria detailed above.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
16.04.2019	CKEVAN	April 2020
Reviewed 8/1/24	S.POOLE	Jan 2025

