



ILLNESS AND INFECTION POLICY

Should a child become ill during nursery hours, it is our policy to inform parents of their condition. If we cannot get in touch with them, we will inform another representative on the child's contact form. When necessary we may request a child is collected from nursery as soon as possible and if applicable visit the GP. Whilst waiting to be collected the child will be cared for in an appropriate manner. **We do believe a sick child is better cared for within the comforts of their own home setting.**

Several forms of illness are highly infectious such as conjunctivitis, impetigo and diarrhoea. We do maintain very high standards of hygiene, however these types of conditions spread at an alarming rate and many children could become infected within a short period of time. Should these symptoms become apparent in a child during the nursery day, we will contact parents immediately for them to take further action.

We will notify parents if any of the conditions listed below should occur: -

- If a child has a high temperature and is obviously distressed.
- If a child has a rash (except for teething / nappy rash)
- If a child has any contagious illness i.e. conjunctivitis.
- If a child has two or more instances of diarrhoea OR vomiting.
- If a child is unusually listless or generally unwell.

It is our policy, that should a child suffer from any infectious disease, that parents refrain from bringing them into nursery until after the probationary period. (See table below). These guidelines are set by the department of Health. If you are at all unsure, please consult your GP.

With co-operation we can limit the spread of infection

Illness / Infection	Exclusion Period
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48hrs after last episode
Chicken Pox / Measles	5 - 6 days from onset of rash
Conjunctivitis	Until treatment is started
Impetigo	48hrs from start of treatment
Ringworm	Until receiving treatment
Hand, Foot and Mouth	In individual cases no exclusion (48hrs if cluster of cases occur - more than 3 children)

In view of new information received regarding new viruses and infections and the possibility of a pandemic, we will seek advice from the Local Health Authority and advise staff and parents accordingly. With co-operation from all parties we can minimise cross contamination.

If children are prescribed Antibiotics, it will be at the Manager and in her absence the Deputies discretion as to if the child is allowed into nursery; in some circumstances exclusion of 24-48 hours may be necessary.

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Staff, parents and visitors are advised to use the alcohol hand gel that is made available in all areas of the nursery, to help improve and maintain hygiene standards. If staff are seen to be suffering symptoms of any of the above-named infections in this policy, we will advise them accordingly of their exclusion period from work.