



Health and hygiene: Sickness and illness

Policy statement:

At Little Laura's we promote the good health of all children attending our setting. To help keep children and staff healthy at Little Laura's and minimise the cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections we ask that children who are unwell do not attend nursery. We believe that if a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment.

Procedures:

If a child becomes unwell during the day and to minimise the spread of infection, we implement the following procedure:

- If a child becomes unwell during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them, or a known carer to collect their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area.
- If a child has a temperature 38 degrees or over, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their hands with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- Temperature is taken using an ear thermometer kept in the first aid cabinet.
- An illness form will be completed to be reviewed and signed by the child's parent or carer on collection. This includes details of the child's symptoms, health on arrival, action taken and temperature recordings. Parents may take a copy of this form home.
- In extreme cases of emergency an ambulance will be called and parents informed.

Exclusion Periods

- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they have a contagious infection and to inform us of the nature of the infection.
- Where children have been prescribed anti-biotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to nursery.
- After diarrhoea and or sickness, parents are asked to keep children at home for 48 hours after the last bout of illness.
- Where children have had a high temperature (38 degrees or greater) parents are asked to keep them at home for 24 hours before returning to nursery.
- If a child has had to have children's paracetamol, Calpol or other medication in the morning of nursery then they are not well enough to attend. We endeavour to keep sickness and absences of children and staff to a minimum – therefore we will follow a strict policy to prevent the spread of illness.

- Children's paracetamol, Calpol (un-prescribed) will only be administered with the consent of the parents to prevent febrile convulsion and where a parent or named person is on their way to collect the child.
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery to enable them to spot the early signs of illness in their child or children. We do this through door notices or an e-mail if deemed appropriate.
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell in the best interest of the child, the other children and adults.
- We follow the guidance of Public Health England and follow their recommended exclusion periods for specific illnesses. The full list is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>
- Parents are requested to notify the nursery if any family members or authorised collectors are at higher risk of any common childhood illnesses.
- When children return to nursery after a contagious disease and or hospital visit it is requested that parents contact the nursery to discuss the support and care the child will need when returning to nursery. This may include the completion of a risk assessment.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Manager informs OFSTED and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.
- OFSTED will be notified as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.

Nit and Headlice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parents may be asked to keep the child away 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 if they are found to have headlice.

Conjunctivitis

- Conjunctivitis is not an excludable condition if the case is isolated. However, if an outbreak occurs it may become excludable to prevent the spread of further infection.

Linked Policies and Forms

Medication Policy
Child Entry Form
Illness Form

Further Guidance

Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

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