

Illness and Medication Policy

I aim to provide a healthy and safe environment for all the children I look after and I understand that as a working parent, you need to work as regularly as possible. However there are times when a child is unwell and would be more comfortable being cared for in his/her own home. I also have to consider the other children at my setting and my own family.

There are some illnesses that may not require medical care but the child may still not be well enough to attend. I ask that if your child is showing symptoms of an illness then please do not bring him/her to my house.

Usually it is fine to bring your child in if they have a minor cough or cold, but to ensure the health of yours and of all the children and my own family, I generally recommend the following guide:

It is best not to bring your child to my setting if he/she...

- Has a fever or has had within the last 48 hours.
- Has a constant cough that is not caused by allergies.
- Has been vomiting within the last 48 hours.
- Has had diarrhea in the last 48 hours.
- Has had symptoms of a possible communicable disease e.g. reddened eyes, sore throat, headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, fever, blocked nose...

Infectious and Notifiable illnesses, the HPA and Exclusion Periods:

If a child develops an infectious disease e.g. chicken pox I will inform all parents and the affected child will be excluded inline with the current guidance set out by the HPA. All illnesses will be logged and signed in the incident book.

For a list of infectious diseases you can visit www.hpa.org.uk or call 0207 759 2700/2701

I am obliged to keep a record of, and report any Notifiable Diseases to the HPA (Health Protection Agency) and also Ofsted. An HPA poster is displayed in my setting detailing these diseases and the symptoms. This poster details how long a child must be excluded from a childcare setting for. It also provides information on how to prevent these illnesses and guidance on immunisations.

Minimizing the spread of infection.

It is important to stop illnesses spreading so if a child comes to my house with a minor illness such as a cough or cold, I will encourage the child to practice good hygiene and always wash their hands, cover their mouths when they cough and throw away tissues immediately.

I minimize the spread of infection by ensuring a suitable cleaning and hygiene routine is followed. I thoroughly clean my setting and all the equipment on a regular basis and as required. Myself and the children will always wash hands after sneezing, using the toilet, coughing, wiping noses, messy play, outdoor play and before (and after) eating. I will also wear gloves to change nappies and wash hands afterward. (Please refer to my Health and Hygiene Policy for further information).

Following an illness, I feel it is best for a child to be at home for at least 48 hours before returning to my setting. Please refer to the HPA infection control poster for more detailed guidance. This is displayed on the wall in my setting.

Fees still apply for days missed due to your child's illness.

If a child becomes ill while in my care:

If a child becomes ill while in my care I will:

- Make sure he/she is as comfortable as possible.
- If necessary I will isolate them from the other children in a safe, quiet area where they can rest to avoid the spread of infection.
- Consider all the circumstances of the child's condition and if I think it is necessary I will call you or your emergency contact immediately to arrange collection.
- I will continue to care for your child until they are collected, but if I do not think you need to be informed immediately I will tell you when you arrive at the normal collection time.
- All illnesses will be logged in the incident book and I will ask you to sign this.

If a child arrives feeling ill:

If a child arrives feeling ill, I will:

- Make a judgment in line with the guidelines I have set out in this policy.
- Make sure the child is comfortable and will arrange collection with the parent or emergency contact if necessary.
- If I feel the child is too unwell to be left by the parent I will ask them to take them straight back home.
- If a parent is not present when the child arrives (e.g. if the child has been at school before coming to my house then I will decide whether it is necessary to contact the parent for collection or not, also in line with the guidelines I have set out in this policy.

Illness in my own family:

If I, or any of my family are ill then I will contact all parents to inform them of the nature of the illness and whether I feel it is suitable for children to come in or not. I will give them as much notice as possible to arrange alternative care on these occasions.

Parents will not be charged for days missed due to my or my family's illness.

Administration of medication:

If your child has medicine to take that has been prescribed by a doctor then it is likely that the child is not well enough to come to my setting. However if the child is well enough but still needs some ongoing treatment then you will need to sign a permission form specific to each medicine. The medicine must be brought in with the original packaging with clear instructions relating to dosage. When you drop off your child you will need to tell me when their last dose was and I will do the same when you collect your child. (This will be recorded in writing). Any medicine given will be recorded in detail in the incident book and you will be asked to sign this at the end of the day.

A permission slip will need to be signed before I will administer any non-prescription treatments such as Calpol, teething gel or cough medicines etc...

There will also be a permission slip for long-term medications and self-administered medications e.g. inhalers. This ensures that a child that needs medication on a more sporadic basis will have this available to them at all times.

Upon registration, written and signed permission will be obtained from parents for me to seek professional medical assistance in the case of an emergency. (This is also covered in my Accident and Incident Procedure).