



Sickness and Illness Policy

Children should not be left at the setting if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at the setting with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the setting:

- If a child becomes ill during the day, their parents will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for **at least 48 hours**.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox, to protect other children in the setting. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the setting, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. 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.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the day in the setting, 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. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course.
- The setting has 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.
- If head lice are present within the setting, posters and advice leaflets will be displayed and provided. Parents are asked to check their child's hair regularly, treat as required and inform the setting wherever possible.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the setting that their child has meningitis, the manager should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area, and Ofsted. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the setting, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, an ambulance will be called immediately. NO attempt will be made to transport the sick child in your own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, the parent will be contacted and arrangements made to meet them at the hospital.
- A senior member of staff will accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team will be informed immediately.
- Staff will remain calm at all times. (Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance).

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	
Signed on behalf of Spice Childcare	
Date for review	