



Sickness and Illness

Policy

At **Evergreen Early Years** we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect 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. Children will get sniffles frequently and they are fine to attend with these.

We follow the guidance published by UK Health Security Agency (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.¹

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>



Sickness and Illness

Policy into Practice

In order to take appropriate action with children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes **ill during the nursery day**, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area, wherever possible.
- 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. If a child has 2 episodes of loose stools at nursery we will call parents to collect. This will be looked at on an individual basis for under 2's due to contributing factors like teething etc which can be the cause.
- 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.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any **food poisoning** affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
- We ask parents to keep children on **antibiotics** at home for the first 48 hours of the course (In conjunction with our medication policy).
- We have the right to **refuse admission** to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager, or most senior team member present and is non-negotiable.
- **Refunds** of fees are not made for absences due to illness, as outlined in our terms and conditions.

- If a parent finds that their child has **head lice**, we ask that they inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair. We will not share who has headlice with other parents.
- In line with the NHS, if a child gets a **temperature of 38** or above we will provide fluids and cooling methods to try and reduce the temperature. If it does not come down, then a parent will be contracted to come and collect.
- If a child **arrives and has had medicine** to reduce a temperature, we will inform parents that if their temperature rises above 38, or they become unwell, we will ask them to collect.

Specific Procedures

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 may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

Seriously ill child procedure

- Inform the most senior team member immediately.
- Call 999 for an ambulance if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle.
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of the team must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- The team member will travel in the ambulance if parents have not arrived at nursery. This will be the most appropriate member of the team and will take with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets and medication.
- Redeploy team members if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.
- Remain calm at all times.

- 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 this situation.

Infection control

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery.

- Encourage all children to **use tissues** when coughing and sneezing to catch germs.
- Ensure all **tissues are disposed of** in a hygienic way and all children should wash their hands. The team should **wash hands or use hand sanitiser** once the tissue is disposed of.
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for **good hygiene** procedures in helping them to stay healthy.
- Wear the appropriate **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Team must dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately.
- Clean and sterilise all **potties and changing** mats before and after each use.
- Ensure the **cleanliness of toilets** by checking they are flushed after use, seats and floor are clean and dry and a thorough clean is completed daily.
- Remind **children to wash their hands** before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this. Team to supervise.
- **Clean** toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis, at least half termly.
- **Touchpoints** (doors, switches etc.) to be cleaned daily.
- Toys that are **mouthed** must be washed.
- Store **dummies** in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination.
- Thoroughly wash any **dummy or bottle** that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child.
- Store **toothbrushes** (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination.

- Provide **individual bedding** for children that routinely sleep and wash this at least once a week. This is stored in labelled bags.
- **Wipe down bed** mats after every use.
- The nursery will **ensure stocks** of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>April 2022</i>	<i>L Davy</i>	<i>March 2023</i>
<i>October 2022</i>	<i>L Davy</i>	<i>October 2023</i>
<i>June 2023</i>	<i>L Davy</i>	<i>June 2024</i>
<i>April 2024</i>	<i>L Davy</i>	<i>April 2025</i>
<i>July 2024</i>	<i>L Davy</i>	<i>July 2025</i>
<i>October 2025</i>	<i>L Davy and A Astley</i>	<i>October 2026</i>

