 **Sickness and Illness**

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| EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46 |

At **Best Friends Day Nursery** 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 or have had paracetamol suspension before their nursery session. 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.

**Our procedures**

In order to take appropriate action of 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 with their key person, wherever possible
* We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (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
* 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.
* Children who have hand, foot and mouth must see a GP to have this confirmed and will only be allowed to come to nursery if they are well, eating normally and not having Calpol/paracetamol.
* Children with chicken pox must not return to nursery until all spots have scabbed over
* Children with impetigo should not return to nursery until any scabs are completely dry and healed
* We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.
* We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, 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.
* Should your child have an eye infection and have drops they will not be able to come in for 24 hours.
* We have 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
* We make information/posters about head lice readily available, and all parents are requested to regularly check their children’s hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child’s hair. Children’s hair should be treated before bringing them in, any child who has head lice found whilst in nursery need to be collected and taken home to be treated but can return as soon as they have.

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 encounter a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection

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

**Transporting children to hospital procedure**

The nursery manager/staff member must:

* Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
* Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
* Redeploy staff, if necessary, to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
* Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child’s comforter
* Inform a member of the management team immediately
* Always remain calm. 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 the accident.

*\*If a child has an accident that may require hospital treatment but not an ambulance and you choose to transport children within staff vehicles Citation advise you to consider the following in your policy:*

* *Requesting permission from parents*
* *Ratio requirements of the setting being maintained*
* *The age and height of the child, in regard to will they need a car seat? Further guidance can be found at* [*www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/*](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/)
* *There are some exceptions for needing a child seat depending again on their age. Further guidance can be found at* [*www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/cars-taxis-private-hire-vehicles-vans-and-goods-vehicles/#under-three*](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/cars-taxis-private-hire-vehicles-vans-and-goods-vehicles/)
* *With the fitting of the car seat, we also need to ask has the individual had training in carrying in carrying this out.*
* *Is this transport covered under business insurance, so a call to your insurance company will be needed, or do they have business insurance on their vehicle?*
* *Safeguarding of the child needs to be looked at. In certain situations, e.g. A designated member of staff should be appointed to plan and provide oversight of all transporting arrangements and respond to any difficulties that may arise. Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort. Staff should ensure that their behaviour is safe and that the transport arrangements and the vehicle meet all legal requirements. They should ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately insured and that the maximum capacity is not exceeded*
* *Emergency procedures, e.g., what happens if the child’s health begins to deteriorate during the journey.*

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *8th June 2018* | *Vicki Rogers* | *8th June 2019* |
| *Reviewed 8th June 2019* | *Vicki Coppack* | *8th June 2020* |
| *Reviewed 8th June 2020* | *Clare Bullimore*  | *7th June 2021* |
| *Reviewed June 2021* | *Hayley Wright*  | *6th August 2022* |
| *Reviewed August 2022* | *Hayley Wright*  | *May 2023*  |
| *Reviewed 11th May 2023* | *Hayley Wright*  | *June 2024* |
| *Reviewed 20th May*  | *Hayley Wright*  | *June 2025* |