

## Child Illness Policy & Procedure

### Exclusion

It is our policy to exclude children who have any infectious illness for a period that is defined by the Department of Health and which we have a duty to adhere to. Once these minimum times have elapsed children are no longer infectious and can return, however some children take longer to recover fully and whilst they might no longer be infectious, will need to remain at home until they are completely well. Due to the fact that a nursery environment is conducive to the spread of minor but contagious infections such as conjunctivitis, we may ask you to keep your child at home to minimize the risk of infections to other children and staff. If staff considers that a child appears to be too unwell to return, they **will** ask you to take them home again.

### Do you know when your child should stay at home?

Staff are always sympathetic to the needs of parents who have to juggle the demands of home and work; however, we cannot make exceptions in cases where children are unwell. We ask for your cooperation when we request that your children stay at home when they appear to have recovered' but are still potentially infectious to others.

Early years settings are not equipped to care for poorly children, if a child is taken ill whilst in our care, we will contact you immediately and ask you to collect them as soon as possible. By doing so we are ensuring that the spread of infection is minimized and that children who may be more vulnerable due to other complications are protected. If in doubt please ask us for more information about exclusion times.

Parents are asked not to bring children in to the nursery if they are suffering from any of the following:

- High temperature - (24 hrs clear of temp without the need for fever reducing medicine please)
- We use both fever strips and ear thermometers (parents give permission for which one to use on their child)
- Sickness, diarrhea or gastric upset. (Children will not be allowed back into the nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.)
- Any infectious illness such as conjunctivitis
- Please see our infection control poster that's in each room

Should a child become ill in the nursery, they will be made comfortable and the parent will be notified and asked to collect their child. If the child has a persistent high temperature and the parent is not nearby, then we will call 999 to seek medical help and advice.

Notification will be given to a member of the Management team if a child needs 999 support. Management will be involved in the proceedings at all times and will designate a member of staff or management to go to the hospital with the child whilst waiting for the parents to arrive.

Statutory recommendations of exclusion for infectious diseases will be observed.

Parents are asked to email each and every time their child has a temperature and needs medicine. In the email you have to state the dosage that you require us to give them.

Parents are required to telephone the nursery if their child will not be attending their session due to illness. We would appreciate when you telephone to tell us the name of your child and the reason why they are not attending as we will have to inform other parents if it is an infectious illness.

Please telephone - 020 8567 0800

### **Head Lice Policy**

Head lice are a problem that can sometimes occur in the nursery, and an information leaflet is available from the nursery. If head lice are found on a child they should be kept at home and treated and the nursery notified. The nursery will be able to state when a child is able to return. (Exclusion time will differ according to which method of treatment is used). If a child is found to have head lice in the nursery, parents or carers will be contacted to collect their children as soon as possible.

### **Ear Infection Policy**

From time to time children do get ear infections. When a child has a 'runny' ear we will need notification from the Doctors that the discharge is not infectious and that it would not be detrimental to the child with this problem to be exposed to nursery activities such as sand play etc.

### **Administration Policy**

Medicines prescribed by Doctors for use during illnesses allergies such as antibiotics, piriton and epi-pens, can be kept on the premises. Parents must complete a medical form for EACH medicine stating clearly the dosage and times for administering. **This is the responsibility of the parent to make sure this happens.**

Fever reducing medicine such as paracetamol/Ibuprofen is kept by the nursery on the premises but is not individually prescribed to each child. We can keep a medical permission form for each child but this must be updated by the parent as a child moves from one dosage to another. Permission will still be sought from the parents each time it is needed to be administered however if the parent is not contactable the Management will make the decision to administer per the signed form.

Little Acorns will notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, any child while in their care, and of the action taken. Notification will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring as in line with the

*Ofsted Serious accidents, injuries and deaths that registered providers must notify to Ofsted and local child protection agencies A childcare factsheet February 2011*

We will also notify local child protection agencies of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, any child while in their care, and must act on any advice from those agencies.

**Children's Services Contact Team:**

[csctreferrals@islington.gov.uk](mailto:csctreferrals@islington.gov.uk)

**Tel: 020 7527 7400**

**Ofsted: 0300 123 1231**