



6.7 Sickness Policy

Sickness and Illness Policy

At little Gillies we promote the good health of all children attending by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell.
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals, and drinks
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes. Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside
- Sharing information with parents about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases
- Sharing information from the Department of Health that all children aged 6 months - 5 years should take a daily vitamin
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information about the importance of sleep and how many hours young children should be having

Our procedures

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, (wearing PPE) 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
- 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. 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



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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 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 24 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) we will add to the child's file when medication is taking so we know if they have had it before
- 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 headlice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair

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 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 senior management team immediately



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- 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

All policies and procedures are implemented, reviewed and updated on an annual basis or in line with any changes to local and national guidance/legislation in conjunction with the registered person.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Gillies

Held on.....

Date to reviewed

Signed on behalf of the provider.....

Name of signatory.....

Role of signatory.....

Reviewed by Sarah Beresford

Date August 2024