

Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

Policy statement

At Little Squirts we follow government guidelines with regards to infectious illness that should be excluded for and ask parents to use their judgement with regards to how well their child is when recovering from minor illness such as colds. We do expect parents to be aware of the spread of infection and work with us to avoid this happening by keeping sick and infectious children away from the setting.

Our Intention

At Little Squirts we intend to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the parents are called and asked to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- The child's temperature is taken using a digital forehead thermometer, a forehead thermometer strip, or a digital thermometer for the ear, kept in the first aid box.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high (over 37.5), then we may give them Calpol or another similar analgesic, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- If the child's temperature still does not go down, nurofen or another ibuprofen based medication may be given, again, consent will be sought from parent.

- Medication will not be given if there is no written consent and no verbal consent is obtained, medication may be given if there is written consent and the parents have been called, a message must always be left if this is the case.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- We reserve the right to refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Children should not be given Calpol before coming to nursery (unless for pain relief such as teething) as this can mask symptoms whilst the child remains infectious. If a child needs medication to feel well, they are not well enough to be at nursery.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep their child off from nursery for the first 48 hours of starting them in case of any reactions that may occur. This is regardless of whether they have taken these types of antibiotics previously.
- After diarrhoea, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from file:///C:/Users/User/AppData/Local/Temp/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager will inform Ofsted and contact Public Health England, and act on any advice given.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

- Use protective rubber gloves for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Rinse soiled clothing and either bag it for parents to collect or launder it in the setting.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.
- Ensure that children do not share tooth brushes, which are also soaked weekly in sterilising solution.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although we do ask that children are treated immediately and in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies

When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form. If a child has an allergy, we complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:

1. The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
2. The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
3. What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. EpiPen).
4. Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
5. Review measures

This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed where our staff can see it.

Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting. Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- Oral medication:
 - Asthma inhalers are now regarded as ‘oral medication’ by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider.
 - Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
 - We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
 - We adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
 - We must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.

- Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:
 - These include adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).
 - We must have:
 - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;

- written consent from the parent or guardian allowing our staff to administer medication; and
- proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
- Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.
- Key person for special needs children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.:
 - Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
 - The key person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or guardians.
 - Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.
- If we are unsure about any aspect, we contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk

This policy was adopted by Little Squirts Preschool on 21st December 2022 (review date 1st December 2023)

Signed.....

Name.....

Role.....