

INFECTION CONTROL

Policy Statement

At Wingate Childcare we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend Childcare 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.

Our procedures

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the childcare. Our staff:

- 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 and staff wash their hands 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. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- 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
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in children's bags to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the childcare. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.

In addition:

- The childcare manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the childcare
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the childcare
- Periodically each room in the childcare will be deep cleaned including soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises

- The childcare will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

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 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 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 childcare
- 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 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
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager/senior on duty and is non-negotiable
- In extreme cases of emergency the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parents informed.

Sickness and diarrhoea

Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to childcare until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in Childcare, 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

Head lice

Head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared. On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

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 Childcare so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the childcare that their child has meningitis, the childcare 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 childcare, 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. We provide care for healthy children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

Oral Medication

- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturers instructions clearly written on them.
- Childcare must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
- Consent must be given from parents/guardians and kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider.

Life saving medication and invasive treatments

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).

- Childcare must have:
 - Written consent form from the parent or guardian allowing the staff to administer medication; and
 - Training in the administration of such by the child's GP a district nurse, children's nurse specially or a community paediatric nurse.
- Copies of all three letters relation to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Confirmation will then be issued in writing confirming that the insurance has been extended.

Key person for special needs children – children requiring help with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.

- Prior written consent from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
- Key person to have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents/guardians, or who have qualifications.
- Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

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 bodily fluids are the same for all children and adults.
- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sludging clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and either bagged for parents to collect or laundered in the childcare.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using disinfectant.