

Sickness and Illness

Relevant EYFS clauses: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46
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At **Mighty Oaks Day Nursery & Preschool** 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. 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, and exposure of illness to other children, staff members and pregnant women must be limited.

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 (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings to protect other children in the nursery.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, ear or eye infection, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for **at least 48 hours** and are eating normally. 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 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 have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
 - If a child has diarrhoea/loose nappy (first instance), we will take their temperature and monitor them
 - If a child has diarrhoea/loose nappy twice in a short time, we will take their temperature again and give a courtesy call to their parent(s). The child may need collecting if the diarrhoea is bad and a bug is present in the setting
 - If a child has three occurrences of diarrhoea/loose nappy, we will contact their parent(s) to collect their child and the parent(s) or emergency contacts should collect within half an hour to stop any bugs spreading to the other children and practitioners
- 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). 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
- 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 on the main nursery door and on Tapestry 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.

Suffering a head injury within the nursery

If a child suffers from a head injury whilst at our setting, the nursery staff will:

- Always call the parents (and emergency services, if necessary)
- Ice pack to the injured area
- Check for dilated pupils, drowsiness slurred speech, vomiting.
- Complete an *Accident Form* thoroughly
- A head bump wrist band offered to the child
- Closely monitor the child throughout the day and, when collected, give parent a head injury advice slip listing the problems which may occur and reiterate that if they are in any doubt that they should take the child to the GP or hospital.

Child who fits

If a child fits whilst at our setting, the nursery staff will:

- Use their first aid training
- Call the emergency services and parents
- Take the child's temperature and record it
- Monitor and keep the child comfortable until the emergency services and/or parents arrive.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery Manager will contact the Infection Prevention and Control Team on **01305 361 132** or via email at dhc.infectionprevention.control@nhs.net. The IC Team will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Team 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. They will **NOT** attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Re-deploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together or calling some parents to collect their child to maintain staff:child ratio
- 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
- Remain calm at all times. 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.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
01/01/2019	S Daver	01/01/2020