

Knutsford Community Preschool

04.5 Managing children who are sick or infectious

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water but kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly using an infrared forehead thermometer.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to Preschool; the Preschool can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home until the course is finished.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.

*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis

- Some activities such as sand, dough and water play will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, if we believe a child may have symptoms relating to this virus, we will inform parents/carers promptly and advise that the child is collected as soon as possible. We will also advise that the child is seen by a doctor or pharmacist for advice on treatment required. Once the child has been treated and the conjunctivitis has cleared and they are feeling well, the child can return to Preschool. If you decide not to use medication, we ask that the child remains home until they are symptom free and eyes are completely clear.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The Preschool manager notifies the Committee Chairperson (their line manager) if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The Preschool manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The Preschool manager or deputy calls NHS 111 and informs parents.

HIV/AIDS 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.

- 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/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if found to have head lice, using current recommended treatments.
- Parents are asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.

****Paracetamol based medicines (e.g., Calpol)**

- If your child needs to be given any paracetamol based medicines before or whilst attending Preschool we ask that you keep your child at home as your child's immune system will be depleted during this time and therefore they are more likely to pick up other infections.
- Preschool does not keep such medicine on the premises as we are not allowed to 'prescribe'. A child over two who is not well, and has a temperature, must be kept cool and the parents asked to collect them straight away.

Whilst the brand name Calpol is referenced, there are other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief such as Nurofen for children.

Further guidance

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](#) (Alliance Publication)

[Medication Administration Record](#) (Alliance Publication)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf