



## 41. Sickness & Illness Policy

### EDITION 5

#### Summary

At Dicky Birds we promote the good health of all children attending our nurseries/B&ASC. (Breakfast and After School Club). To help keep children healthy and minimise infection we strongly recommend that children are vaccinated in accordance with the government's health policy. We do not expect children to attend nursery/club 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/club with their peers.

#### Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action if children become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery/club 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 guidance from Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) and follow their recommended exclusion periods for specific illnesses i.e chicken pox, measles, sickness and diarrhoea. We seek advice from our local health protection team as appropriate.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear of symptoms for at **least 48 hours since the last bout of vomiting and/or diarrhoea.**
- We ask all parents to notify the nursery if their child has any common childhood illness.
- Parents are requested to advise the nursery if any family members or authorised collectors are at higher risk of any common childhood illnesses.
- 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 in their child/children.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
- 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
- We exclude all children for the **first 12 hours** if they have been prescribed an oral medication which they have not had before; this is so that they can be monitored at home for signs of an allergic reaction to the medication.
- 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 not negotiable.
- We display information/posters about head lice, should the need arise, and we request that parents check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we ask that they inform their nursery/club so that other parents can be alerted to check their own child's/families hair.

#### Bacterial Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery/club that their child has meningitis, the nursery/club manager will contact the local Health Protection Team (HPT) for guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery/club, we will be contacted directly by the HPT and the



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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/club 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
- Remove other children to another part of the building.
- Inform a member of the Senior Management team immediately
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Ensure that someone is sent to meet the ambulance crew and that a free passage is cleared to enable the paramedics to access the casualty as quickly as possible.
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure that ratios are maintained in order 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 Child Entry forms, relevant medication sheets/ Care Plan, any medication and the child's belongings including comforter.
- 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.

#### **Linked Policies**

*Infection Control and Method Statements*

*Allergy policy*

*Medication policy*

*Immunisation Policy*

#### **To be used in Conjunction with the following Nursery Forms, Documents & Resources**

*Public Health England*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

*South West London Health Protection Team (Kingston and Merton)*

[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

[www.wandsworthpct.nhs.uk](http://www.wandsworthpct.nhs.uk)

*NHS Choices*

<http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

*Care Plans*

*Child Entry forms*

*Medication sheets*

*Information posters for parents*

*Weekly chirp*

*Exclusion table*

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>February 2018</i>	<i>Lisa Turpin</i>	<i>February 2019</i>