



Sickness and Illness Policy

At Little Dragon's Day Nursery we promote the good health of all children and staff. To help keep our Nursery community 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 and who can provide them with 1:1 care.

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:

1. If a child becomes unwell 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.
 2. We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) 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 the nursery¹ (see link 1 below for full list).
 3. 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.
 4. Please note that we will not accept children into Nursery if they have been given medicine prior to arrival to control a temperature or to feel well in themselves. If a child requires medication to get through their day, they are not well enough to be at Nursery and should be kept at home until they feel better.
 5. In the event of us being unable to maintain appropriate adult: child ratios due to unprecedented staff illness, we may be required to temporarily close part of the Nursery. Please note that this will always be a very last resort, but the safety of the children and maintenance of adequate supervision will always be at the forefront of any decision made.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as **sickness and diarrhoea**, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least **48 hours from the last episode**.
 - If a child develops a persistent **temperature**, this tells us that the child is unwell and therefore **should not be at Nursery**. If the child **develops the temperature whilst at Nursery**, we **will call parents to arrange collection** and seek the necessary permissions to administer Calop to control the temperature should the parent wish.
 - A child will be able to **return to Nursery** following a temperature when they are **feeling better and do not require medication to control it**.
 - We ask parents to keep children on **antibiotics at home 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 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.
 - We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>



Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery 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 nursery, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately.
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. We will not attempt to transport an unwell child ourselves.
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment 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 registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's 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 following the accident.

If a child has an accident that may require hospital treatment but not an ambulance, Little Dragon's will adopt the following procedure:

- Parents will be called to collect their child and take them to receive necessary medical treatment.
- If the child's condition worsened, staff will call 999 and follow their advise.

This version of the policy was originally approved by K.McLeod on the 05.07.21			<i>Version 1</i>
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