

Sickness policy

We at Mereside Farm understand the importance of promoting good health within our nursery; we take the necessary steps in accordance with statutory guidance to prevent the risk of infections spreading and take appropriate action when children are ill.

Often many illnesses are not obvious until after an incubation period so on many occasions we will not be aware a child is infectious straight away so limiting the spread of illness among young children can be very difficult. Once aware of infectious illnesses we will clean and sterilise as many of the toys and equipment as practically possible and inform parents.

We do rely on parents not bringing children into nursery when they are unwell to support us with this. If you feel your child is unwell at all, especially if you think they may have come into contact with someone who may have an infectious illness, for example older siblings or family members, please do not bring them into nursery and seek medical advice.

- If a child arrives at nursery unwell or with an infectious illness, the Manager will be notified (if not on site the Deputy Manager or owners will be consulted) who will make the decision as to whether the child must return home.
- If the Manager, Deputy or owners cannot be consulted the staff present can check the health protection charts which sets out exclusion periods for specific illnesses but ultimately the staff member will then need to make a decision using their own discretion based on the information that they have and how the child appears.
- If children are allowed to stay they will be monitored during the day and parents will be called if it is felt that they are worsening in any way.
- If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, judgment will be used to ascertain the seriousness of the illness.
- Children's temperatures will be taken where necessary and the child comforted and made comfortable. Children who become tired or fall asleep will be kept under close observation.
- The issue will be discussed with the Manager, Deputy or owner and a decision made about whether the child should stay at nursery. The parent will then be called to either inform them their child is unwell to give the option to collect them or make a doctor's appointment, or they will be called to request that they collect their child as soon as possible.

- Each circumstance will be treated individually dependant on the type of illness, exclusion period set out in the Health Protection Agency guidelines and how the child appears in themselves.
- All parents will be notified if there is a confirmed case of an infectious illness in nursery, e.g. chicken pox, measles, etc.
- All notifiable diseases will be reported.
- Children may attend nursery when on medication, however when antibiotics are first given to a child they are not permitted to attend nursery for the first 24 hours. This is because if a child is unwell enough to need antibiotics generally they are not well enough to attend nursery. It also allows a full day of doses to enter the child's system and start to work and allows the parent/carer to monitor for any reactions to the medicine.
- Other than Calpol, teething gels/liquids and nappy creams all other medicines must be prescribed by a GP or nurse and the prescription details must be seen for us to administer any medication.
- If at any point a child becomes seriously ill, first aid will be administered and emergency medical advice and treatment may be sought. If a child has to be taken to hospital they will be accompanied by a member of staff and parents will be informed as quickly as possible, it is therefore vital that we are updated on any changes to contact details straight away.
- Whilst we understand it can cause difficulties for parents having to collect their children during the day, as a nursery we have a duty of care to ensure that sick children are appropriately cared for and we are taking all measures necessary to reduce the spread of any illnesses to other children. Nursery care unfortunately cannot be on a one to one basis therefore sick children are much better at home in the care of their family where they can be closely monitored.
- It is the responsibility of parents to inform the nursery if their child has been given any medication outside of their nursery attendance hours and also if their child will be absent due to illness.
- When the nursery is notified of any absence we will need to ask what the reason for absence is. This is to ensure that we can take measures to reduce the risk of illness spreading and can inform parents of other children if necessary.

We as a nursery will always attempt to reduce the spread of illness by cleaning and sterilising toys and equipment once we are aware of infectious illnesses but do also

Please be aware that for vomiting and diarrhoea we will exclude children from

nursery for 48 hours following the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea. This is in line with health protection guidelines and is to try and prevent the infection spreading to other children.

For more detail regarding medication, please see illness/medication policy

REVIEWED AND REVISED: 3.3.15

REVIEWED BY: TERRI CARTER