



## Wise Owls Child Sickness Policy

### Procedure

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This policy has been written to ensure that children who become unwell whilst at Wise Owls are treated with sensitivity and respect. It is also to help us to protect other children from illness and the spread of infection.

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then we believe that they should be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery. Parents must inform Wise Owls if a child has an infectious disease (Such as Hand, Foot and Mouth) and has attended the nursery prior to infection.

### PROCEDURE

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, the parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. We will do this by either calling the parent(s) or messaging them on family. If we do not get a response we will try the emergency contact. During this time the child will be cared for whenever possible in a quiet, calm area with their key person or another familiar staff member. (see below for more details)
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for 48 hours.
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by Brighton and Hove and Public Health Agency and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious, and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection. With a case of conjunctivitis, we ask that the child does not return to nursery for 24 hours after starting medication.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- 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. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course. If they feel well, they can then return.



- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to an unwell child. This decision will be taken by the Director on duty and is non-negotiable.
- 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.
- Piriton- If a child has taken Piriton prior to arrival the parents must make us aware of timings and dosage via Family.

#### MENINGITIS PROCEDURE

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, one of the Directors will contact the Health Protection Duty Room on 0300 555 0119, Brighton and Hove EY team and Ofsted. HPDR will advise on a case by case basis.

#### IF AN UNWELL OR INFECTIOUS CHILD COMES INTO THE NURSERY:

The Directors reserve the right not to accept any child who is unwell into the nursery. It is unfair on the child to be here when they need to be with their parent(s)/carers or have one-to-one attention. It is also unfair to the rest of the children who are at Wise Owls to be knowingly placed in contact with an illness or infection.

#### DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING

To help keep all children and staff healthy, we follow strict sickness exclusion guidelines:

- **Children must stay at home for at least 48 hours after their last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.**
- This 48-hour rule **still applies if your child is sent home from nursery** with symptoms.
- **Please note:** Your child may only return to nursery for their **next scheduled session after the 48-hour period has ended not exactly 48 hours later.**
  - *For example:* If your child is sent home on Monday lunchtime, they cannot return for their Tuesday or Weds session they would be welcome back from Thursday onwards, if well.
- If a child has **two or more loose bowel movements** in one day while at nursery, we will call you to collect them.
- Children should only return when they are **fully well and able to join in with nursery activities.**

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us reduce the spread of illness.

#### FEVER

A fever is a temperature of 38 degrees or above. If a child has a temperature of 37.8 or higher they must be kept away from nursery until they are well enough to attend.

#### CALPOL/NUROFEN

The nursery will not administer any medicine unless it has been prescribed by their doctor, pharmacist or dentist. If you have administered Calpol or Nurofen to your child they should not attend Wise Owls for 24 hours from the latest dose. This is because Calpol/ Nurofen can mask the effects of illness which could then be passed on to other children. This includes for babies teething.



We will manage teething discomfort with powders and gels. If a child is experiencing significant distress that requires stronger medication, we will ask that they stay at home where they can be more comfortable.

Nursery staff have the right to refuse to administer any medication with which they feel uncomfortable. Please can all parents respect our staff team's decisions as our policies are in place to prevent infection from spreading around the nursery.

The administration of medication must be logged via Famly and the parent/carer and staff member will need to acknowledge a medication form on the child's profile. This will include the name of the medication, dosage, timings and known side effects.

#### IF A CHILD BECOMES UNWELL WHILST AT THE NURSERY

If a child begins to show signs or symptoms that could pertain to illness they will firstly be comforted by staff, preferably the key person. This should be in the form of reassurance, both verbal and physical as appropriate, e.g. cuddles.

As soon as a child shows signs of feeling unwell, the child's key person or a familiar staff will begin to monitor the child. They will take the child's temperature and if it is **37.8 or above** will speak with the office/Directors to notify the parents to collect the child. If the temperature is **lower than 37.8** but the child is still 'under the weather' the staff will continue to monitor and discuss the next steps with the Directors around that child's individual needs.

If possible, the child's key person or a member of staff from the child's group should spend one-on-one time with the child, attempting to find out what is wrong and if necessary administering first aid.

No prescribed or non-prescribed medication may be given unless prior written permission has been obtained from the parent/carer that day or week depending on the situation and the stated dose is due to be given at that time. Staff must record this appropriately via Famly.

The Directors should be informed of any child who appears to be feeling unwell. If, after staff have done everything they can to make the child more comfortable, there is no sign of improvement, then the Director, in conjunction with the child's key person, will discuss whether or not to contact the parent(s) /carers to come and collect their child. Directors must be informed when a member of staff wants to call a parent regarding a sick child.

If a child has an allergic reaction to something in the environment or garden, Directors will call the parent to seek advice from them. Parents may come and take their child to the chemist and if appropriate the child may return once Piriton/ or other medicines have been administered. Parents must fill out a non-prescribed medicine form via Famly. If it is deemed to be in the best interest of the child to go home, the Director or key person will ring the parent(s)/carers, getting the number from the child's Famly 'About' info. They will explain the signs and symptoms the child is displaying and ask them to come and collect him/her.

If the Director or key person is unable to contact the parent/carer they will then go on to the next person on the contact list, usually the second parent/carer, continuing down the list of authorised persons as necessary. Whilst their parent/carers are being contacted the child should continue to be comforted by members of staff.



Plenty of fluids should be offered to the child and if their temperature is higher or lower than usual this should be addressed immediately. Any other symptoms should be treated as necessary. The child should always be treated with the utmost sensitivity and respect as feeling poorly can be distressing and quite frightening for a child. They should have a staff member with them, preferably their key person until their parent/carer or authorised person arrives to collect them.

The child should have privacy as much as possible and be able to be in a quiet area away from other children, with the staff member. This could be the sleep room or a corner of The Nest. Should a child's symptoms deteriorate whilst waiting for their parent(s)/carers the Director should be informed immediately.

If the Director feels necessary, they should call for an ambulance. The Director must then inform the parent(s)/carers to meet them at the hospital. First aid should be administered to the child as necessary.

#### TRANSPORTING CHILDREN TO HOSPITAL PROCEDURE

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together relevant medication sheets, medication, the child's comforter and the work phone with the Family app. downloaded onto it. A member of the Director team must also be informed immediately.
- Remain calm at all times. A sick child may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. If you are confident and assertive the child will feel reassured.

#### CALLING AN AMBULANCE

Dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. Answer all questions honestly and clearly. When asked to give the address and telephone number, use the following details:

**Wise Owls Nursery School, 15 Park Crescent Place, Brighton, BN2 3HF**

**Office 01273 232308**

**Mobile 07935 748820**

The Director and Key person if possible, will go with the child to the hospital, taking the work mobile phone which includes all their medical details on Famly. Reports should be written up by the Director and Key person and any witnesses to be kept on file.

#### FEBRILE CONVULSIONS, ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK AND ANY OTHER FIT OR SEIZURE

If a child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately and the same steps taken as above.

Anaphylaxis typically presents with many different symptoms over minutes or hours with an average onset of 5 to 30 minutes if exposure is intravenous and 2 hours for foods. The most common areas affected include: skin (80–90%), respiratory (70%), gastrointestinal (30–45%), heart and vasculature (10–45%), and central nervous system (10–15%) with usually two or more being involved.



Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that may require resuscitation measures such as airway management, supplemental oxygen, large volumes of intravenous fluids, and close monitoring. Administration of epinephrine (Epipen) may be required and only staff with Epipen training should be called upon to administer such treatment.

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