

Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Start Well Learning we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend 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 the setting with their peers.

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:

- If a child becomes ill during the 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 the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings 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 setting.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to the setting until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the setting, 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
- 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, as such we suggest that a child remains at home for the first 48 hours of taking a course of antibiotics.
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager, staff member in charge on duty and is non-negotiable
- Information regarding head lice is readily available and 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 setting so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the setting that their child has meningitis, the manager/director will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the setting, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the 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 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
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, 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.
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- 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