



EYFS Requirement

This policy has been written in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare requirements (section 3.42)

Related Policies

Child Protection Policy
Inclusion Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy
Health and Hygiene Policy
Key Person Policy

Legislation

Working Together to Safeguarding Children
Children Act 1989
Children Act 2004 (Every Child Matters)
Children Act 2006
Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings

Introduction

At Stepping Stones we want to provide a healthy environment for all staff and children. It is our intention to protect the health and well being of all the children and the staff of the Nursery by excluding any child, or member of staff, who is ill or infectious. If a child becomes ill at Nursery we aim to make them as comfortable as possible until their parents or an authorised adult can collect them.

We strongly believe that if a child is unwell, there is no place better for them than at home.

We will ensure there is a qualified first aider on the premise at all times. Our staff will co-operate fully in implementing health initiatives and we expect staff to take care of their own health.

Nursery Illness

It is at the Nursery Manager's discretion whether or not to allow a child into nursery if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no exclusion period or if this is after any exclusion period has passed or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious.

The Nursery Manager will need to take into account the demeanour of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in nursery activities. They must also consider whether allowing a sick child in nursery would affect the staff to child ratios, as children who are unwell may require continual one to one attention.

If we allow a child showing signs of illness or who has recently recovered from an illness into nursery then we will monitor them regularly and we will contact parent/carers to ask that they are collected if they become unwell again.

If a child becomes ill while they are at nursery then we will contact parents/carers to come and collect their child from nursery. If we cannot contact parents/carers then we will try the emergency contacts. If we feel that a child is in danger at any time then we will seek medical advice immediately.

If a child is prescribed antibiotics then the first 3 doses must be given at home to ensure that the child does not have an allergic reaction to the medication.

At Stepping Stones we will:

- do all we can to support children who become ill while at nursery.
- ask parents/carers to supply a range of contact numbers so they can be contacted quickly should their child fall ill.
- update records regularly
- train staff to recognise the signs of illness and respond accordingly
- inform parents/carers when there is an outbreak of an infectious disease
- inform parents/carers of the symptoms to look out for in their own children and where to get the appropriate advice
- ensure staff follow strict hygiene routines at all times to minimise the spread of infection
- exclude children who are suffering from certain infectious diseases

Exclusion Periods

If a child has an infection then it may be subject to an exclusion period as set out by the Health Protection Agency (Please see Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings)

Illness Outbreaks

If there is an outbreak of an illness in nursery then the Manger will consult with the local Health Protection Agency for advice. We may decide to exclude children in order to control an outbreak even where this is not listed in our normal exclusion policy.

Reporting Infectious Illnesses

If a child has an illness we would request that the parent/s contact the nursery as soon as

possible so we can communicate this to all staff and parents, as well as Health Protection and Ofsted if it is a notifiable disease. This is particularly important in case a child has come into contact with a pregnant staff member or parent.

Infection Control

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

The best way to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery environment is to maintain high hygiene standards in the nursery. To do this we will follow the guidance below:

- Ensure all children use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch all germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Encourage all children to do the above by discussing the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Staff will all wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- All potties and changing mats are cleaned and sterilised before and after each use
- Toilets are cleaned at least daily
- Staff are to remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- All toys, equipment and resources will be cleaned on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- All equipment used by babies and toddlers will be washed or cleaned as and when they need it – this includes when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Dummies will be stored in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- If a dummy or bottle falls on the floor or is picked up by another child, this is cleaned immediately and sterilised where necessary
- Individual bedding will be used by children and labelled. This will be washed at least once a week and not used for any other child

This policy was reviewed in; May 2014

Signed on behalf of the setting; (Caroline Betts) Signature.....

Date for review; June 2015