Sickness and Illness (Nursery) Policy

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

At Lingfield College Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending including oral health by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals and drinks
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes (see Infection control policy)
- Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside
- Sharing information with parents about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases
- Sharing information from the Department of Health that all children aged 6 months – 5 years should take a daily vitamin
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information about the importance of sleep and how many hours young children should be having.

2.0 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 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 (wearing PPE), wherever possible

- If a child reaches a temperature of over 37.5 a parent will be informed. The child will be monitored every 10 minutes, and should this increase a parent will be asked to collect their child as soon as possible, We ask the temperature has been stable without any medication for 24 hours before their return to Nursery
- We follow the guidance published by UK Health Security Agency for managing specific infectious diseases 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 nursery
- 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
- 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
- We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 48 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 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
- We make information and posters about head lice 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 nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

3.0 MENINGITIS PROCEDURE

3.1 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.

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

The nursery manager or selected staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle**
- 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.

4.0 HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PROCEDURE (HFMD)

4.1 Hand, foot and mouth disease is a common childhood illness that can also affect adults. It usually gets better on its own in 7 to 10 days. Hand, foot and mouth disease is not the same as foot and mouth disease that affects farm animals. It is not a notifiable disease under UKHSA.

4.2 Based on NHS advice Hand, foot and mouth disease - NHS , the School will ask parents to keep their child off school for a minimum of 5 days after symptoms start. The advice also encourages parents to keep their child off nursery while they are feeling too unwell to attend, even after the 5-day isolation period.

4.3 All Nursery parents will be e-mailed regarding any situation where a pupil in the setting is a confirmed case with HFMD. This may be followed up with a more formal letter depending on development of any outbreak.

4.4 On notification from parents of any pupil with HFMD, the School will adopt additional cleaning/hygiene regime measures. These will include, but is not limited to:

- Asking families not to bring children to nursery when they are unwell.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of nursery environments and resources.
- Regular fogging and deep cleaning procedures where required.
- Frequent handwashing routines for children and staff.
- Close monitoring of symptoms and illness's across the nursery.
- Prompt communication with families when cases of infectious illness are identified.
- Ongoing review of health and safety procedures in line with emerging guidance and local circumstances.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a significant incident, e.g. serious illness and/or hospital visit required.

APPENDIX A

Should My Child Attend Today?

PLEASE STAY HOME

- Temperature above 37.5c
- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- Rashes, spots and contagious conditions
- Sticky, red, runny or sore eyes
- Needs Calpol (or similar) to get through the day
- Dry consistent or barking cough

PLEASE DISCUSS BEFORE DROPPING AND BE ON CALL TO COLLECT IF NEEDED

- Sporadic Cough
- Runny nose which is green/yellow
- New Medicine prescribed
- Fever free for 24hrs
- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea free for 48hrs
- Unable to join in all the activities

OK TO COME IN AND LEARN AND PLAY TODAY

- Mild Cough
- Runny clear nose
- Can join in all activities

