

Infection Control & Isolation



Policy Created: June 2017

Policy Updated: April 2020

Key Legislation: Human Rights Act (1998); Working Together To Safeguard Children (2015 policy paper, updated 2017) Public Health Agency: Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and Other Childcare Settings (2017)

EYFS Statutory Framework (2017) Section 3:1, 3:44

All staff are familiar with and use the Public Health Agency guidance; posters are displayed in each room as point of reference and follow its recommendations. Occasionally the public health or NHS announce disease outbreaks such as flu strains, Ebola etc which are acted on accordingly.

This policy applies to nursery children and staff and extends where necessary to any parents or children in contact with unwell children to reduce and control infection.

Spread of Infection - isolation

In cases of rash, sickness, diarrhoea, flu-like transmittable or airborne infection/disease, a child should not attend the nursery until 48 hours after the last bout of symptoms such as vomit or diarrhoea.

Head lice, irritation or skin issue

Staff are not permitted to inspect children. If it is noticed that a child is scratching or appears sore, parent/carers will be informed and asked to check their child at home. Staff are not permitted to recommend treatments but suggest advice is sought from their pharmacist or GP. Children are not always excluded during an outbreak of head lice; parent/carers are expected to work responsibly with staff to help keep the spread and re-occurrence of head lice to a minimum.

Contacting Parents/carers

If a child falls ill whilst in our care we will make every effort to contact the parent/carer. On occasion, the Nursery may need to contact Ofsted in response to certain communicable diseases.

Infection control

As a nursery, staff:

- 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
- discuss and demonstrate good hygiene, praising the children to stay healthy and develop good hygiene habits
- wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids
- clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats after each use
- ensure that toilets are cleaned daily, at least

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- 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

It is usual practice that the nursery also ensures:

- All toys, equipment and resources are cleaned on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota (available to view in the nursery) using an antibacterial cleanser or thorough washing in the washing machine
- Comforters/dummies are stored individually in named hygienic boxes to prevent cross-contamination with/by other children
- If a dummy/comforter or baby bottle falls on the floor or is picked up by another child, this is cleaned immediately and sterilised where necessary
- Comforters and baby bottles with teats are discouraged from the Nursery once they are no longer needed as comfort
- Bedding used by children is name labelled to ensure they remain for the sole use of a child, and cleaned accordingly

In the situation of pandemic or other government-advised isolation in response to disease, the nursery will follow the recommended guidance.