



OUTBREAKS OF ILLNESS POLICY & PROCEDURE

AIM

It is our aim at Stepping Stones Nursery to care for the children in a safe, happy environment and to ensure that communication with Parents is excellent with regards all aspects of time their child is within nursery.

PROCEDURE

- If an outbreak of an illness or infection occurs at Nursery, it is our Policy to place a Notice on each of the entrance doors informing the parents of the nature of the illness, e.g. Chicken Pox, Sickness etc.
- If the child is displaying symptoms at nursery, staff must contact the parent/guardian to inform them and advise them to seek medical advice. This must be recorded in the daily report book.
- Advise the parents on an exclusion period in accordance to the specific illness (see table below)
- We have up to date guidance notes and information on Infection Control in Child Care Settings from the Health Protection Agency, which as a rule, we work to.
- Steralise all toys, equipment etc.

RECORDING ILLNESSES

PROCEDURE

If we receive a call informing us that a child will not be attending nursery due to illness, we must:-

- Clarify, what the symptoms are and record them in the relevant book provided.
- Advise parents of the exclusion period necessary for relevant illness.
- If possible, establish when the child will be returning to nursery.
- Inform all relevant members of the unit concerned.
- If contagious illnesses are brought to our attention ie. chicken pox, sickness, diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, impetigo, head-lice etc. we must inform Senior Staff and the necessary signs will be displayed.
- If more serious illnesses are brought to our attention, ie. measles, e-coli, hand foot and mouth, scarlet fever etc., we must inform Senior Staff and the necessary action will be taken ie. signs etc.

NB. We must ensure that books are kept up to date with concise information as this will be monitored on a monthly basis.

This policy sets out the exclusion periods from the setting for children who are ill, including if they are infectious. Stepping Stones takes into consideration guidance from the Health Protection Agency with regards to exclusion periods for illnesses and infection control, as well as the needs of the children and staff.

Notifiable diseases: please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusion

Chicken Pox/Shingles	5 days from onset of rash or until spots are crusted over.
Cold Sores (Herpes simplex)	None - Although if it is a severe case, staff may recommend to seek G.P. advise/home care until symptoms ease.
Conjunctivitis	We will advise you to seek medical advice for diagnosis. If medication is prescribed we require 12 hours use of medication prior to returning to nursery. If it is a severe case or the eyes are weeping excessively and the child is unwell, staff may advise home care until symptoms ease.
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting including Rotavirus/Norovirus/Gastroenteritis	48 hours from the last episode, if as a result of illness or infection. (Also, if a child has loose stools in nursery, children are required to be sent home and may return 48 hours after the last episode)
Flu	Until the child is well enough to attend nursery.
German Measles (Rubella)	5 days from onset of rash
Glandular Fever	We will advise you to see a G.P. for diagnosis. If medication is prescribed we require 12 hours use of medication prior to returning to nursery. If the child is unwell we will recommend home care until the child is well enough to attend nursery.
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	We will advise you to see a G.P. for diagnosis. If medication is administered we require 12 hours use of medication prior to returning to nursery. If the child is unwell we will recommend home care until the child is well enough to attend nursery.
Head Lice	None although we recommend treatment.
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Meningitis	Until recovered. We will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit
Mumps	5 days from onset of swollen glands
Ringworm	We will advise you to seek medical advice for diagnosis. If medication is prescribed we require 12 hours use of medication prior to returning to nursery. If it is a severe case or is weeping excessively staff may advise home care until symptoms ease.
Scabies	We will advise you to seek medical advice. If medication is prescribed we require 12 hours use of medication prior to returning to nursery. If it is a severe case or is weeping excessively staff may advise home care until symptoms ease.
Scarlet Fever	5 days after commencing antibiotics
Slapped Cheek	None. However must be well enough to attend nursery.
Threadworm	We will advise you to seek medical advice for diagnosis. If medication is prescribed we require 12 hours use of medication prior to returning to nursery. If it is a severe case or is weeping excessively staff may advise home care until symptoms ease.

Parents are asked to keep their child at home if they are suffering from any infectious diseases and inform the Nursery as soon as possible. When your child is un-well, you must contact the nursery to discuss the situation and confirm their return. On very rare occasions, we may need to delay a child's return to nursery, due to the severity of the illness. We also reserve the right to refuse entry to the nursery should we feel a child is not well enough to attend, please do not be alarmed by this statement, over the past 18 years there has been very few occasions where this situation has arisen, however, we have now implemented this condition to safeguard all children that attend nursery.