



EARLY YEARS INFECTIOUS & COMMUNICABLE ILLNESSES

Approved by Directors	
Date for next major review	

June 2014

Infectious and Communicable Illnesses

We are committed to the health and safety of all children and staff who play, learn and work here, it will sometimes be necessary to require a poorly child to be collected early from a session or be kept at home while they get better. In such cases, the provisions of the Health and Illness Policy will be implemented.

In accordance with the procedures set out in the Health, Illness and Emergency policy, parents/carers will be notified immediately if their child has become ill and needs to go home. Poorly children will be comforted, kept safe and under close supervision until they are collected.

If a child or member of staff has had to go home prematurely due to illness, they should remain at home until they are feeling better. In the case of sickness and diarrhoea, a minimum exclusion period of 48 hours will be enforced.

If a child or member of staff becomes ill outside the setting hours, they should notify the setting as soon as possible or at least one hour before the start of their next shift. The minimum exclusion periods outlined in the table below will then come into operation.

If any infectious or communicable disease is detected on the Early Years premises, the setting will inform parents/carers personally in writing as soon as possible. The setting is committed to sharing as much information as possible about the source of the disease and the steps being taken to remove it. Ofsted will also be informed of any infectious or communicable diseases discovered on the Early Years premises if required.

Head lice

When a case of head lice is discovered at the setting, the situation will be handled carefully and sensitively. The child concerned will not be isolated from other children, and there is no need for them to be excluded from activities or sessions at the setting as long as immediate treatment is sought.

When the child concerned is collected, their parent/carer will be informed in a sensitive manner.

Other parents/carers will be informed as quickly as possible in writing, including advice and guidance on treating head lice.

Staff should check themselves regularly for lice and treat whenever necessary.

Minimum Exclusion Periods for Illness and Disease as recommended by the Health Protection Agency

DISEASE PERIOD OF EXCLUSION

- Antibiotics prescribed first 48 hours after commencement of giving antibiotics
- Chicken Pox 5 days from when the rash first appeared (Or until all spots have formed a scab)
- Conjunctivitis 48 hours after eye drops administered

- Viral Diarrhoea / Sickness 48 hours after last bout of sickness/diarrhoea
- Diphtheria 2-5 days
- Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning, Salmonella and Dysentery 48 hours or until advised by the doctor
- Glandular Fever until certified well
- Hand, Foot and Mouth disease until clinically well.
- Hepatitis A 7 days from onset of jaundice & when recovered
- Hepatitis B until clinically well
- Impetigo until the skin has healed
- Infective hepatitis 5 days from the onset
- Measles 5 days from when the rash first appeared
- Meningitis until certified well
- Mumps 5 days minimum from onset of swollen glands
- Pediculosis (lice) until treatment has been given
- Pertussis (Whooping cough) 21 days from the onset
- Plantar warts should be treated and covered
- Poliomyelitis until certified well
- Ringworm of scalp until treatment has been given
- Ringworm of the body until treatment has been given
- Rubella (German measles) 5 days from onset of rash
- Scabies until treatment has been given
- Scarlet fever and streptococcal 3 days from the start of the treatment
- Infection of the throat 48 hours
- Slapped face virus until clinically well
- Tuberculosis until declared free from infection by a doctor
- Typhoid fever until declared free from infection by a doctor
- Warts (including Verrucae) exclusion not necessary. Sufferer should keep feet covered.

The Early Years team will gather information and advice from the Health Protection Agency, Local Authority and other agencies as necessary.

This policy was adopted on June 2014. Date for review: June 2015