

4a. Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44

At the Arc nursery we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.

Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

Child become unwell at nursery

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, the room leader will contact their parent(s) and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible or send a known carer to collect them on their behalf. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their head with cool water. A record of their temperature will be recorded on a 'child health form'.
- In extreme cases of emergency the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.

Infection

- 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 follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings 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

Antibiotics

- We exclude all children on antibiotics 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

Meningitis procedure

- If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Infection Control Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

Excludable Diseases

- There is a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is displayed on the wall in the nursery corridor and can be obtainable from www.hpa.org.uk/servlet/Content#server?c=HPAweb and includes common childhood illness such as measles.

Reporting of 'Notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency. If the nursery becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and act in any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

- HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.
- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning and changing of clothing and soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect. The nursery does not have facilities for sluicing clothing.

Food Poisoning

- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning. 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 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

Nits and Head Lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep their child away until infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to check and treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.
- We make information/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.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, 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
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- 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.

Further guidance

Managing medicines in school and Early Years Setting (DfES 2011)

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