

Written February 2022

## **SICKNESS & ILLNESS POLICY**

It is essential for parents to notify staff about their child's state of health upon arrival of every session at Humming Bees Day Nursery if the child is suffering, or has recently suffered from, any illness – has had a loose bowel movement, an above normal temperature or has been vomiting.

Humming Bees Day Nursery follows official guidance on infection control and will seek advice from the authorities where necessary. Any serious illness will be reported to SEYT and Infection Prevention.

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time, the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person.
- Should a child have an infectious illness, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g., sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious, and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have encountered a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection
- 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. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course
- The nursery has 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
- Information about head lice is 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

### **MENINGITIS PROCEDURE**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the local medical authorities and SEYT. The medical authorities will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the medical authorities and the appropriate support will be given.

### **TRANSPORTING CHILDREN TO HOSPITAL PROCEDURE**

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. Staff must not attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital

- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect registration forms, relevant medication sheets, care plans and risk assessments, medication, and the child's comforter. A member of management team must be informed immediately
- Always remain calm. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance

#### **MINIMUM TIME CHILDREN SHOULD BE AWAY FROM NURSERY DUE TO ILLNESS**

Humming Bees Day Nursery must be informed if a child has a contagious disease/illness to prevent the illness spreading. Such information will be treated sensitively and in a confidential manner.

Humming Bees Day Nursery may reserve the right to request a letter from the child's GP before allowing them to return to the nursery.