

Written February 2022

See amendments at end of document

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 from, or has recently suffered from, a loose bowel movement, an above normal temperature or has been vomiting. Serious illnesses that do not include these symptoms should also be disclosed.

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

PROCEDURES

Children should not be left at nursery if their illness is causing them distress. If a child is unwell they will prefer to be at home. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

1. 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.
2. Should a child have sickness and/or diarrhoea or a high temperature, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
3. We follow the NHS recommendations on specific illnesses and whether staying at home is required: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>
4. 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.
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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

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.

Amendments

27/08/2022 – add "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" to procedures