

# Sickness and illness policy

## Introduction

At Salford Family Nurseries the welfare of all our children is paramount and we would work closely with parent/carers to ensure the health and wellbeing of the children. We promote the good health of children attending the setting. 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.

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.

If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, staff will inform a member of the management team. A member of the management team will contact the parent/carer or another named emergency contact and asked to come and 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.

The child may be comforted in a quiet area within the nursery until the parent/carer arrives. If a child needs to sleep, mattresses and bedding are available. All bedding must be washed after it has been used.

Thermometers for taking children's temperatures can be found in the nursery office.

Should a child have sickness and/or diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. Whilst we understand your child may not have any further loose stools within the 48hrs periods we are not able to guarantee the initial one was not infectious.

It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by the Health Protection Agency and exclude specific contagious conditions, to protect other children in the nursery. (See health protection unit poster communicable diseases for a full list of illnesses and exclusion periods). Certain childhood illnesses require an exclusion period i.e. Chicken pox. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.

## **Please download the following resource: Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Facilities**

If a child is prescribed antibiotics they must be off nursery for 48hrs to enable the antibiotics to work and also to protect your child and the other children from 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 come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection

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.

If two or more children have diagnosis of food poisoning or any child has a notifiable disease. OFSTED and the Greater Manchester Health Protection Unit **0161 786 6710** must be informed. A list of these is kept in the Notifiable Diseases File located in the nursery office.

The Nursery Manager will notify Ofsted on: 0161 0300 123 1231 of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, any child while in their care, and of the action taken. Notification will be made as soon as is reasonable practical but within 14 days of the incident occurring.

## **Note**

**If a child was to become so seriously ill whilst at nursery and we couldn't wait for parents to arrive we would call an ambulance and keep parents informed. One member of staff would accompany the child to hospital if parents were not able to.**

## **Allergies reaction**

Within the Nursery children may exhibit an allergic reaction. This policy may help to minimise the risk of allergic reactions and what to do if a child suffers effects.

Any child who attends the Nursery with a known allergy must have a risk assessment and medical care plan. This will be drawn up in consultation with the parent/carers and the concerned medical staff involved with the child.

The management plan must contain the following information:

- Child's name, date of birth and a brief account of allergy
- Contact details for parent/carer telephone and second emergency contact.
- Emergency procedures – All staff to be aware of medical procedure information, how and when to administer medication.

This includes assessment of symptoms, administration of medication, medical contact details and ambulance procedure.

- Medication kept accessible to staff but out of reach to children.
- Parent/carers are responsible for ensuring medication is in date.
- Staff must be trained, on when and how to administer medication. There must be at least one member of staff on site at the same time as the child willing and able to administer the medication.
- If the child is allergic to known products then all responsible measures should be taken to ensure that such products are excluded from the nursery.

- Parents/carers must give permission for medicine to be administered in the event of a medical emergency.
- Medication must be signed in and out on a daily basis, with details of dose and frequency (time).
- Where-ever possible there will be no nut products in the nursery.

\*\* Where a child has a food intolerance this must be diagnosed by your child's GP and nursery requires a copy of the GP's diagnosis in English to enable us to provide child receives a balance nutritional diet (e.g. lactose intolerance). We cannot eliminate food groups without medical advice/diagnosis.

## **Asthma**

During a child's gradual admission we would discuss with parent/carers their child's medical needs. If a child has asthma we would record information relating to their child's specific needs, symptoms, triggers and medication. We keep a register of children with asthma that staff can access at all times.

We would ask that the child's asthma medication be brought into nursery. We would need the child's reliever inhaler to be left at nursery. All inhalers are kept in a cupboard in easy access of staff members. This ensures that should the inhaler be required in an emergency it is easily accessible. We ask parents to bring the inhaler in its original box with the administration dosage on. This would then be recorded on the nurseries medication form which parents sign to give permission but also when they collect their child so they are aware the child has received the medication.

We ask parents to keep us informed of any changes to their child's medical condition and medication. If a child becomes unwell we would administer their reliever inhaler. If the child's condition does not improve we would contact the parents to ask them to seek medical advice. If we felt the child's condition could not wait for parents we would take emergency action and phone an ambulance. We have qualified paediatric first aiders and those with a "first aiders at work" qualification.

We are aware that this is a serious condition and we treat asthma with respect.

All children who have asthma will have a medical care plan in place to ensure that in an emergency the individual needs of the child are met.

We are aware that environmental factors can impact on a child's asthma. We would try to eliminate any risks as far as possible.

We wash all the children's spacers every Friday.

**This policy was updated: March 2024**

**Signed on behalf of the nursery managers:**

**Reviewed by: Debbie Evans, Val Worrall, Joanne Kirk, Angela Jones and Sukwinder Singh**

**Date of Next Review: March 2025**