



# Illness Policy

## Policy Statement

The health and well-being of all the children, staff and parents/carers who attend the Mini Munchkins Nursery is of paramount importance to us. For us all to provide a clean and healthy environment it is important for us all to follow procedures.

### We aim to:

- Ensure sick children are identified.
- Ensure sick children are cared for appropriately.
- Protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- Enable our staff and parents/carers to be clear about the requirements and procedures when a child is unwell.
- Provide a safe, secure and hygienic environment, following stringent planned cleaning procedures and policies, including ongoing daily cleaning routines throughout the working day. Deep and thorough cleaning practice following infectious outbreaks.
- Inform and advise all persons who have contact with the nursery, Parents/Carers, Children (New and Expectant mothers) and Visitors of an outbreak and information relating to symptoms, prevention and treatment required.
- Report infectious outbreaks to the appropriate authorities.

### Procedure

- If any child is thought to be unwell, we will assess the symptoms of the child and deal with them in the appropriate way which is dependent on the symptoms.
- Any child with an infectious or contagious disease will be excluded for a required period of time. If staff suspect that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will advise parents/carers to consult a Doctor/Pharmacist before returning to the nursery.
- Should a child become ill whilst at the nursery, the Manager or Key person will contact the parent/carer or emergency contacts, we ask for the child to be collected as soon as possible. The child will be comforted by the key person who will take appropriate action which will include medical advice where necessary, whilst awaiting the arrival of the parent/carer.
- Our staff will report any worries about a child's health or wellbeing to the parent/carer immediately. Parents/carers are responsible for keeping the nursery informed about their child's health.
- We recommend that children do not attend the nursery whilst suffering from a communicable disease and should be excluded for the periods recommended. Please see our guidelines to illness/communicable diseases.
- Parents/carers will be contacted should their child have a high temperature of 37.8c or higher will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible.



- Children's paracetamol (Calpol) may be administered only with parental/carer consent to children with high temperatures. If a child has been given Calpol in Nursery (after getting phone consent from parent). The child must be collected within the hour and can return back after 24 hours.
- Parental/carer consent will have been given on the enrolment form. This will be given in 2.5ml or 5ml dosage. Parents/carers will be contacted before Calpol is administered if staff are unsure if it has been given before they have arrived at the nursery.
- We can only administer medicine, that has either been prescribed a Doctor/Nurse or Pharmacist with child's name and DOB clearly on label. All medicine must be in date.
- We are unable to administer any medicine which has been decanted into another container.
- Any medicine brought in needs to be in the original box with leaflet in English enclosed and with the child's name on label where appropriate.
- Any medicine brought in will be documented and stored in the appropriate place, forms need to be filled in on arrival and departure, please take care not to leave any medicine in nappy bags and children's bags, thank you.
- If Covid-19 is suspected, we will follow our Covid-19 guidelines detailed below and in the Covid-19 illness policy.
- If a child has ongoing discharge from their ears, nose or eyes the parent/carer will be advised to seek medical advice before their child can return to the nursery and in some cases a doctor's note may be required before returning to ensure the child's well-being is met.
  - If a child has been to a&e or hospital, they must be kept off nursery for 24 hours after being seen.
- If a child has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at the nursery, we will request that they are collected as soon as possible, preferably within the hour. They will then not be able to return to the nursery for 48 hours from the last time they were sick or had a runny stool. N.B we will send a child home if they have had 2 loose stools at nursery.
- To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, if we believe a child may have symptoms relating to the virus, we will inform parents/carers promptly and advise that the child is collected as soon as possible. We will advise that the child is seen by a doctor or pharmacist for advice on what treatment is required. Once the child has been treated and the conjunctivitis appears controlled, providing the child is happy they may return to nursery after 24 hours, giving time for the treatment to work. This will be at the discretion of the managers and in discussion with the parent/carer to ensure the spread of the infection is reduced to a minimum. If you decide not to use medication, we will request the child remains clear of the nursery until they are symptom free and the eyes are completely clear.
- Parents/carers will be contacted if their child develops an unexplained rash and be requested to seek medical advice which they should follow before the child returns to nursery.
  - Chicken pox and Hand foot and mouth – Children can return back to nursery after the last spot has scabbed over which is usually 7 days. Hand foot and Mouth is highly contagious,



and we ask parents to keep their child home until spots have scabbed over and are well enough to return back to nursery.

- If your child has not been their normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought into the nursery, please mention it to your child's key person or managers to let them know how to best contact you during the day and how they can support your child whilst they are at the nursery.
- Should the Manager consider the illness or situation needs immediate medical attention, the emergency services will be contacted to take the child directly to hospital and the parent/carer will be contacted accordingly. (Consent for this should have been given in the child's enrolment form)
- In the unlikely event of the parent /carer not being available the most senior member of staff (Manager) will assume charge and, if necessary, escort the child to hospital along with the relevant details.
- The Mini Munchkins Nursery is committed in providing the highest standards of care for our children to ensure their health and wellbeing is maintained at all times.
- We operate an 'open door' policy towards parents/carers in the nursery, so please feel free to discuss any concerns about your child with their key person or Manager.
- If any siblings are unwell, please do not bring them into the setting. Staff can bring your children out to meet you, at your convenience, just call the nursery in advance and we can arrange for this to happen.

### **Mini Munchkins Nursery Policy on Exclusion**

We refer to the guidance from Notifiable diseases for any exclusions.

### **Disease/Illness Minimal Exclusion Period**

- Mini Munchkins Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at all times and expects everybody working within this setting to share this commitment"
- Antibiotics – 48 hours from first dose. If antibiotics have been prescribed, we ask that the child remains clear of the nursery for 48 hours. This is to ensure the needs of the child taking medication are met and to reduce the risk of secondary infection whilst the child is on medication and the immune system is reduced. This also ensures we reduce the risk of spreading infections.

### **COVID-19 Policy**

We will continue to monitor our Covid policy by following Government and NHS guidance.

Symptoms of Covid can include:

A high temperature, a new continuous cough (coughing a lot more in the space of an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours), Loss of smell and appetite, shortness of breathe, headache, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, diarrhoea or feeling sick or being sick.



If your child is displaying Covid symptoms, we ask that you test them before coming int nursery. Children must stay at home for 3 days after the test was taken. Children must be well enough to return back to nursery.

Adapted Sept 2023 – M.TURNER & L.MARTIN