



Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre

Managing Unwell Children

Young children are susceptible to many illnesses and infections, where they are in close contact with each other infections spread more easily. There is no way to prevent this but gradually children build up immunity to common infections such as colds and a variety of infections.

Wattisham Airfield Childcare Centre will do all it can to support children who become sick or ill while attending the setting. Parents will be asked to supply a range of contact numbers so they can be contacted quickly should their child fall ill. These records will be updated on a regular basis. In such circumstances the facility is not always an appropriate environment if a child is ill. A sick child may not be able to tell staff how they feel and what the problem is or identify the position of any pain, they also may be uncooperative or in a state of distress.

The Key Person is responsible for the well-being of all the children in his/her care and must take and record the child's temperature on a raised temperature form. See medication policy for administering fever control medication.

Unwell Child procedures

In the event a child is unwell:

- Staff must be patient, gentle and offer constant reassurance.
- It may be necessary in some circumstances to separate the child from other children in the group.
- A child's temperature will be recorded

- Medication will be given if needed
- Every effort must be made to contact the parent/guardian or emergency contact to ask them to collect the sick child.
- If appropriate, parents should seek medical advice before the child is able to return to nursery.
- If a child's condition deteriorates rapidly and gives cause for concern, an ambulance will be called. The parents will be informed and a member of staff from the setting will accompany the child and parent to hospital.

Parents will be informed by information displayed in reception or an email when an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs in the setting. They will be informed of the symptoms to look out for in their own child and provided with information on where to seek further help and advice. Staff in the setting will follow strict hygiene routines at all times to minimise the spread of infection.

Children suffering from certain infectious diseases will be excluded from the setting for the following periods of time:

- Chickenpox: Children can attend 5 days from the onset of the rash.
- Conjunctivitis: We advise treatment is sort but no exclusion unless an outbreak occurs.
- Diarrhoea and vomiting: children are unable to return until 48 hours after the last episode.
- Measles: Children may attend 4 days after the onset of the rash
- Head Lice: We advise treatment is sort but no exclusion unless an outbreak occurs.
- Ring worm: We advise treatment is sort but no exclusion unless an outbreak occurs.
- Impetigo: Children must receive treatment and are unable to return for a minimum of 48 hours after treatment, or until lesions are crusted or healed.

The purpose of these exclusion periods is to protect other children and adults in the setting from contracting the disease.

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily. However the decision of the Manager or Deputy Manager is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection. Decisions will take into account the needs of the child and those of the group. Children with infectious or contagious diseases will be excluded for certain periods (see exclusion policy/list). If staff suspects that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, they will request that parents consult a doctor before returning the child to the Nursery.

Parents will always be contacted and informed if their child has a high temperature of 101F / 38C or above. The children will each have a temperature record kept which the parents will be given a photocopy of as the child leaves nursery.

A child who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at the nursery is to be collected immediately and kept away for 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Children who have diarrhoea/loose nappies while at nursery will be sent home on the second bout of diarrhoea.

Immunisation injections

As some children have a reaction from immunisations we ask that parents do not bring their child in on the day of the injection.

Parents will also be contacted if their child develops a rash or suspected thrush. This will need to be checked by a doctor whose advice should be followed.

Information on the symptoms and treatment of common childhood infections will be made available to parents, along with guidance on immunisation schedules on parent's information boards in reception.

The local health protection team and Ofsted will be informed whenever an outbreak of a notifiable disease occurs in the setting.

If your child has not been his or her normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought to nursery, please mention it to the staff and let them know how best to contact you throughout the day. Should the Nursery Manager or Deputy consider the illness/situation to warrant immediate medical attention, parents will be advised to take the child to the doctors or if parents or emergency contacts cannot be contacted the emergency services will be called to take the child directly to Hospital and the parent notified immediately.

Legal framework:

- Children Act, 1989, 2004, 2006
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Employment Act 2002
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children 2004
- Health Protection Agency Act 2004
- Human Rights Act 2000
- Public Health Act 1984
- Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

This policy was adopted at a _____ WACC
meeting of _____
Held on _____ (date)
Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the _____
management committee

Name of signatory _____

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) _____

Review dates:

Date _____ signed _____

Date _____ signed _____

Date _____ signed _____

Date _____ signed _____