



Illness Policy

This policy is to ensure that children who are unwell or become unwell whilst at the nursery are treated with sensitivity and respect. It is also to help us protect other children within the nursery from illness and the spread of infection. Children should not attend nursery school if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, then they will prefer to be at home with their parents and/or carers rather than at nursery with their peers.

Procedures

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery.

- If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, the parents and/or carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for by a familiar practitioner.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an ear infection or 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 and to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

With a case of Conjunctivitis, we ask that the child does not return to nursery for 24 hours after starting medication.

- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents and/or carers 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.
- When a child first becomes ill and requires a course of antibiotics, our policy is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course. This is to enable them to take effect, limiting the spread of infection, and for the child to be well enough before returning to nursery.
- Information about head lice is readily available and all parents and/or carers are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent and/or carer finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents and/or carers can be alerted to check their child's hair, with anonymity always being respected.

If an unwell or infectious child comes into the nursery

The Manager reserves the right not to accept any child who is unwell into the nursery, and this decision is non-negotiable. It is unfair on the child to be here when they need to be with their parents and/or carer or have the need for more one-to-one attention. It is also unfair to the other children in attendance if they are knowingly in contact with an illness or infection.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent and/or carer informs the nursery that their child has Meningitis, the Nursery Manager will contact the Infection Control Nurse for their area. The I.C. Nurses will give guidance and support for each individual case. If parents and/or carers do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the I.C. Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

Diarrhoea and vomiting

All children must not return to nursery for a minimum of 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. If a child is sent home from the nursery due to an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, the 48 hours exclusion still applies. Children should only return to nursery when they are well enough.

Fever

All children must not return to nursery for a minimum of 24 hours or until their fever has returned to normal. If a child is sent home from the nursery due to a fever, the 24 hours exclusion still applies. The nursery will not administer any medicine that has not been prescribed by their doctor, pharmacist or dentist e.g. Calpol, Nurofen etc.

If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery

If a child begins to show signs or symptoms of illness whilst at nursery, they will be comforted by familiar practitioners. This should be in the form of reassurance, both verbal and physical as appropriate, e.g. cuddles, and if necessary, administering first aid. The Manager should be informed of any child who appears to be feeling unwell. If, after practitioners have done everything they can to make the child more comfortable, there is no sign of improvement, then at the discretion of the manager and the child's Key person, parents and/or carers should be contacted to collect their child, and to explain the signs and symptoms the child is displaying. If the Manager, or Key person is unable to contact the parent and/or carer they will go to the next person on the contact list, usually the second parent/carer, continuing down the list of authorised persons as necessary.

Administering medication

We are unable to administer any medication, including liquid paracetamol or similar, without written consent from the parent and/or carer.

We can only accept a written statement from the child's doctor to administer liquid paracetamol or similar when needed if there is a history of a medical condition such as Febrile convulsions/fits within the family.

If a child requires prescribed antibiotics, we will administer them after the first 48 hours of the course. A medication form, however, must be completed.

For ongoing medication, we will accept a covering letter, but a medication form will also need to be completed monthly to ensure that information is accurate and up to date.

This has been an area of some confusion for parents and/or carers, who are unaware of the seriousness with which our insurance company treats this matter. We will invalidate our Public Liability insurance if we administer liquid paracetamol or any other medication without written consent. We would ask all parents and/or carers to adhere to the policy of the nursery in this matter and to seek clarification if they are unsure.

If your child has a minor accident at nursery, a practitioner or one of our qualified first aiders, if necessary, will administer first aid. Details will be recorded on an Accident Report form. You will be asked to sign this form to say you have seen a record of the accident when you collect your child. If the accident/illness is of a serious nature, you or the emergency contact you have given us will be called. If necessary, medical assistance will also be called.

Procedure for transporting children to hospital

1. If the sickness is severe, we will call for an ambulance immediately. We will NOT attempt to transport the sick child in our own vehicle.
2. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the parent and/or carer and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
3. A senior practitioner will accompany the child and collect the child's registration forms, relevant medication sheets, and any current information the manager will also be informed immediately.
4. Practitioners will always remain calm. Children who have witnessed an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance.

Calling an Ambulance to the nursery

- Dial 999 and ask for an ambulance.
- Answer all questions honestly and clearly.
- When asked to give the address and telephone number, use the following details:

Apple Blossom Nursery, Play Close, Purton SN5 4DP

Telephone Number: 07720 313418

The Manager or Key person, if possible, will go with the child to the hospital, taking the child's registration form which includes all their medical details and the consent for medical attention.

Febrile convulsions/fits, Anaphylactic shock and any other Seizure

If a child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately and the same steps taken as in the above section – '**Calling an Ambulance to the nursery**'.