



Managing Sickness & Illness

Policy statement

At The Play Cabin, we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend preschool if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults, they know well rather than at preschool with their peers.

Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the day, we will contact the parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
- We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the preschool. Parents can find the list, which includes common childhood illnesses such as measles at www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to preschool until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the preschool, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises. We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell). This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the preschool 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.
- We have 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.



0208 888 4590

The Play Cabin



- We make information/posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair.
- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and acts on any advice given.