



### **Sickness Policy**

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

### **Our procedures**

In order to take appropriate action to minimise the spread of infection we, we follow the guidance given to us 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 and staff within the nursery

Please refer to the link below for guidance on sickness and infection control (recommendation on time children should be absent from nursery).

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance\\_on\\_infection\\_control\\_in%20schools\\_poster.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf)

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their 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 of the nursery with good ventilation, wherever possible.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- 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
- If a staff member of child develops food poisoning, Ofsted will be notified as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics 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)
- 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
- We make information/posters about head lice readily 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.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery school that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Surrey Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery school, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

### **Transporting children to hospital procedure**

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Take the child's records with you.
- Redeploy staff if necessary, to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Inform the registered person immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.