



## SICKNESS AND MEDICATION POLICY

### **Child Sickness**

We appreciate that as a working parent you need to be able to go to work, however, if your child is unwell then they will be better cared for in their own home with a parent. We are happy to care for children with minor coughs and colds but cannot care for children who are very unwell, infectious or running a high temperature, as we have a duty to consider the welfare of all children at the setting.

If your child has had diarrhoea or sickness we will be unable to provide care until **48 hours after the last episode** of vomiting or diarrhoea occurred. Please call us and let us know of any case as soon as possible. If a child has 3 consecutive episodes of diarrhoea while at the setting, your child's key carer will contact you and ask for you to collect them as soon as possible. Your child will then need to be kept away from the setting for **48 hours after the last episode** to help reduce the risk of any illnesses spreading to other children or staff. It can be common for younger babies to have liquid stools, especially those still on breast milk or formula as the basis of their diet. Therefore, your child's key worker will use their knowledge of your child and their professional opinion to determine if occurrences are normal or a sign of illness.

If your child becomes ill while at the setting, we will make them as comfortable as possible and reassure them. A member of staff will contact you immediately and continue to care for your child until you or your emergency contact arrives.

### **Administration of Medication.**

Medication, prescribed or non-prescribed, will only be administered where written authorisation has been given by parents prior to a child being left in our care.

- Where a child has an ongoing need for medication on a regular or 'as required' basis, authorisation must be given from parents via an authorisation for medication form, clearly stating the child's name, medication dosage and times of administration.
- All medication required by the child is to be provided by the parent in original packaging, with the expiry date clearly marked. No medication past its expiry date will be administered.
- All prescribed medication required by the child is to be provided by the parent in original packaging, with the prescription sticker, provided by a certified GP. No prescribed medication can be administered without the prescription sticker.
- Parents **MUST** inform a member of staff of any medication that they have given their child before they arrived at the setting, including name of medicine, the dose and time given. This will be recorded on the medication administration record.
- In the event of medication to be administered via a non-oral route, i.e. suppository or injection, we will require training from parent and/or district nurse to ensure this is done correctly.



- When medication has been administered during the session, it will be recorded on the medication administration record with the date, time medicated, dose and any other comments. Parents must sign this form on collection of child.
- If a child refuses to take medication, or spits out medication, this will be documented on the medication administration record, but will not be re-administered to eliminate the risk of overdose.
- All medications will be stored out of reach of children and in the correct way, following the instructions provided with the medication.

### Antibiotics

- Following the recommended guidelines, we are unable to accept any child who has just started a course of antibiotics until **24 hours** has passed since their first dose. This is to ensure there are no reactions to the medication and give the antibiotics chance to begin to work on the infection or illness they have been prescribed for.

### Exclusion Periods for Common Illnesses

Little Steps Day Care have set the exclusion periods below, as recommended by health officials

Common Illness	Exclusions	Notifiable to Regulatory Bodies?
Chicken Pox	Until all vesicles have crusted over	No
German Measles/Rubella	4 Days from onset of rash	Yes
Hand, Foot and Mouth	1 week after symptoms began	No
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment	No
Measles	4 days from onset of rash	Yes
Scarlet Fever	48 hours after starting antibiotics	Yes
Slapped Cheek	None - (Can be dangerous to pregnant women)	No
Shingles	Only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	No



Diarrhoea/ Vomiting	48 hours from last episode	No
Flu	Until recovered	No
Whooping Cough	5 days after starting antibiotics or 21 days after onset if no antibiotics	Yes
Conjunctivitis	Until eyes have cleared	No
Head Lice	None	No
Meningitis	Until recovered	Yes
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling	Yes
Tonsillitis	None	No

### Reporting a Notifiable Disease:

It is not the responsibility of the Early Years Setting to report notifiable diseases to the Health Protection Unit, however, the EYFS states that Ofsted must be notified of any serious accident, illness or injury, or death of a child while in the care of the setting. This means, it is the responsibility of the setting manager to inform Ofsted if a child has a 'notifiable disease'. This must be done within 14 days of the event.

It is recommended that, if an Early Years Setting or school has suspicions of an outbreak occurring, they should contact the Health Protection Unit themselves for further guidance.