

Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48

At **Little Fingers Pre-school** we promote the good health of all children attending including oral health by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at pre-school with their peers.
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals and drinks
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes (**see infection control policy**)
- Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside
- Sharing information with parents about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1055877/UKHSA-12155-routine-complete-immunisation-schedule_Feb2022.pdf
- Sharing information from the Department of Health that all children aged 6 months – 5 years should take a daily vitamin <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/weaning-and-feeding/vitamins-for-children/>
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information with parents.

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 has a temperature or appears unwell, they should stay at home until they are feeling better. They are then able to return to the preschool. However, if a child displays COVID-19 symptoms parents must follow Government guidance/Pre-school Operation Plan. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- If a child becomes ill during the pre-school 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 with their key carer wherever possible. PPE will be worn in the event of a child displaying suspected COVID symptoms.
- 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 pre-school¹
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to pre-school until they have been clear for at least 48 hours <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the pre-school, 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, if they have not been prescribed this medicine before all are unwell.
- We reserve the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell and who we believe would be better off at home.
- The manager on duty, and carers responsibility for the well-being of all children in the setting, will make the final decision on the child suitability to attend the setting that day.
- If the manager on duty concludes that a child is not well enough to attend the setting, the reasons for this decision will be clearly communicated to the child's parent(s)/carer(s) and will include a description of the symptoms the child appears to be experiencing.
- Child will be welcome to return to pre-school when they are feeling better.
- Parents/carers are expected to notify the pre-school if they have administered Calpol or any other form of pain relief before coming into the setting. If Calpol or pain relief has been administered prior to attendance, we will presume that your child is not well enough to be attending Little Fingers on that day.
- Please see the link below to the NHS guidance where you can find out about childhood illness that may affect your child and how best to manage <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

- 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 pre-school so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

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

We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.

The pre-school manager/staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately
 - Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle
 - Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
 - Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
 - 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
 - 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.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a significant incident, e.g. serious illness/hospital visit required.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the pre-school	Date for review
May 2022		May 2023