

Child Illness and Exclusion Policy

Purpose

At EDG Nursery we are committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children in our care. This policy outlines how the nursery manages illness and infection to protect children, staff and families from the spread of contagious diseases.

This policy follows guidance from the **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)** and the **NHS**, alongside our internal policies including Infection Control and Medication procedures.

Managing Illness at Nursery

Children occasionally become unwell while attending nursery. Staff monitor children closely throughout the day and will take appropriate action if a child begins to show signs of illness.

A child may need to be collected from nursery if they:

- develop a high temperature or fever
- experience vomiting or diarrhoea
- appear too unwell to participate comfortably in activities
- require a level of care that staff cannot provide without affecting the care of other children
- show symptoms of a contagious illness

Where a child becomes unwell, parents or carers will be contacted and asked to **collect their child as soon as possible**, usually within **two hours of notification**.

High Temperature (Fever)

If a child develops a **temperature of 38°C or above**, staff will monitor the child closely and contact parents or carers to arrange collection.

If a child's temperature reaches **38°C or above**, and **prior written parental consent has been provided**, the nursery may administer a **single dose of age-appropriate paracetamol** to help reduce the fever while the child is waiting to be collected.

This is done to support the child's comfort and minimise further temperature increases while awaiting collection.



Following administration:

- parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child
- the child's temperature will be monitored approximately **every 15 minutes**
- staff will encourage fluids and support the child to rest comfortably
- excess clothing may be removed to help regulate temperature
- all medication administered will be recorded in accordance with the nursery **Medication Policy**

Children who develop a fever at nursery must be collected as soon as possible and should remain at home until they are **fever free for at least 24 hours without medication**.

Medication Given Before Nursery (e.g. Calpol)

Parents must inform nursery staff if their child has been given **paracetamol (such as Calpol), ibuprofen or any other medication** before attending nursery.

Parents should inform staff at drop-off of:

- the type of medication given
- the time it was administered
- the reason it was given

Medication should **not be used to mask symptoms of illness** so that a child can attend nursery.

If a child attends nursery after being given medication and becomes unwell once the medication wears off, parents will be contacted and asked to **collect their child as soon as possible**.

The nursery reserves the right to refuse admission if a child appears unwell or unable to participate comfortably in nursery activities.

Exclusion from Nursery

Exclusion from nursery may be necessary to:

- prevent the spread of infection
- allow the child time to rest and recover
- ensure staff can safely meet the needs of all children

Children should remain at home if they are not well enough to participate in normal nursery activities.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

Children experiencing vomiting or diarrhoea must remain at home for **48 hours after the last episode**, in line with UK Health Security Agency guidance.

This helps reduce the spread of infection within the nursery.

Illness Exclusion Guidance

EDG Nursery follows the illness exclusion guidance recommended by the **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)**. A full illness exclusion guide is provided within the **Parent Information Pack** and is based on UK Health Security Agency recommendations.

Returning to Nursery

Children may return to nursery when they:

- are well enough to participate in normal activities
- have completed the recommended exclusion period
- no longer present a risk of infection to others

In some circumstances the nursery may request **medical advice or confirmation** that a child is fit to return.

Managing Infectious Illness

Parents are asked to inform the nursery if their child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness so that we can monitor symptoms and take appropriate steps to protect other children.

Where necessary, the nursery will follow advice from **Public Health authorities** regarding outbreaks or notifiable diseases

Nursery Discretion

The final decision regarding whether a child is well enough to attend nursery rests with the **Nursery Manager or a designated member of the leadership team**.

This decision will always be made in the best interests of the child and the wellbeing of the wider nursery community.