

At Storybook Montessori we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend 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 nursery school with their peers.

Our procedures

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

- If a child becomes ill during the 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 person, wherever possible.
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings 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 nursery school.
- Should a child have an infectious or contractable disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery school until they have been clear of the symptoms for at least 48 hours. We notify Ofsted as soon as possible, and in all cases within 14 days of any incident, of food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery 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.

For many illnesses there are specific incubation periods during which children must not come to the nursery school. In line with the Health Protection Agency guidelines, Storybook Montessori operates the following exclusion procedures:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting: exclusion from Storybook until 48 hours after the last episode.
- Flu: child must not return until fully recovered.
- Chicken pox: exclusion until all spots have dried which usually takes around 5 days but may be longer.
- German measles*: exclusion until the child is no longer considered infectious and has recovered sufficiently, this must be at least 6 days from the onset of the rash.
- Hand, foot and mouth: No exclusion required, however exclusion may be considered in some circumstances
- Impetigo: exclusion until the lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.
- Measles*: exclusion until the child is no longer considered infectious and has recovered sufficiently, this must be at least 6 days from the onset of the rash
- Molluscum contagiosum: no period of exclusion necessary.
- Ringworm: exclusion not usually required (treatment is required).
- Scabies: child may return after first treatment.

- Scarlet fever*: child may return 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment if sufficiently recovered.
- Slapcheek (Fifth Disease): no period of exclusion necessary.
- Conjunctivitis: No exclusion, however if antibiotics are prescribed they will need to be administered for 24 hours before returning to Storybook in line with the administration of medication policy.
- Head lice: no exclusion necessary, however treatment must be administered.
- Mumps*: exclusion until the child is no longer considered infectious and has recovered sufficiently, this must be at least 5 days from onset of swollen glands.
- Threadworms: no period of exclusion necessary providing treatment is administered.
- Tonsillitis: no period of exclusion necessary.

* denotes a notifiable disease

For all other diseases, please ask the staff for specific guidelines as well as communicating to us the advice of your child's doctor.

We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 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 nursery school 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 reserve 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 school so that other parents can be alerted to check their children's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery school that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their home area and for our area. 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. Staff must NOT attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff, effectively deployed 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 and consent for medical treatment forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.
- Inform a member of the leadership team 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/incident.

In the event that a child is unwell and requires medication we will follow our Administration of Medication policy.