



SICKNESS AND ILLNESS POLICY

At Storybook we work with parents and children to promote the health and wellbeing of all that attend the setting. So that children stay healthy and to minimise the risk of spreading infection we will always ask parents that their child does not attend nursery if they are unwell. Children who become unwell at nursery will need to be collected earlier than usual. We appreciate that this can be difficult for working parents, but we must take into consideration the health and wellbeing of all the children who attend the nursery.

Please note that it is common for young children who are just starting to attend group care to need time to build up their resistance to infection and illnesses. Due to this it is advisable to be aware of the need to flexible with work commitments in the first few months of attendance at nursery. Once children have built up a resistance, they generally have a stronger immune system.

We have set out below guidelines for various childhood illnesses and exclusion periods. If your child has a temperature of 38 or above, please follow the procedures set out in the flow chart on page 4.

Our procedures So that we can act appropriately if your child becomes ill and to reduce 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 inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness.
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England 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. Please see page 2 for full details.
- Should a child have an infectious or contractable disease we notify Public Health England and Ofsted where applicable 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 thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources to reduce the spread of any infection.
- We follow the current Government Guidance surrounding any cases of Covid 19 and advise parents to keep their child at home if they are unwell and displaying any symptoms.
- There are incubation periods specific to certain illnesses and we would ask parents to follow these if your child does have any of these.

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Illness	Exclusion Period
Chicken pox	Can only return once all spots have dried up and it is at least 5 days from the appearance of the first spot.
Conjunctivitis	No exclusion, however, if antibiotics are prescribed, they will need to be administered for 24 hours before returning to nursery
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Flu	Child can only return once fully recovered.
German measles/Rubella	Can only return once the child is no longer considered infectious and has recovered fully, this must be at least 5 days from the onset of the rash.
Head lice	no exclusion necessary, however treatment must be administered.
Impetigo	exclusion until the lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.
Measles	until the child is no longer considered infectious and has recovered sufficiently, this must be at least 4days from the onset of the rash
Mumps	Child can only return once he/she no longer considered infectious, this must be at least 5 days from onset of swollen glands
Scabies	child may return after first treatment.
Scarlet fever	child may return 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment if sufficiently recovered.
Temperature/respiratory infections	child may return once they are fully recovered
Threadworms	no period of exclusion necessary however treatment must be administered.
Tonsillitis	child may return 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment and if sufficiently recovered.
Hand, foot, and mouth	no period of exclusion necessary
Molluscum contagiosum	no period of exclusion necessary
Ringworm	no period of exclusion necessary
Slapcheek (Fifth Disease):	no period of exclusion necessary.

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For all other diseases, please ask the nursery manager for specific guidelines as well as communicating to us the advice of 111, your child's doctor or pharmacist.

Antibiotics

We would ask all children that are prescribed antibiotics remain at home for the first 24 hours to ensure there is a reaction to the medication. 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.

Head lice

If there is an outbreak of head lice, we inform all parents and ask that they are regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, they should inform the nursery.

Meningitis procedure

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

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The nursery manager/staff member will:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. Staff will not attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, the nursery will contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- Nursery staff may be redeployed where necessary to ensure the team can continue to provide care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.
- The most appropriate member of staff will accompany the child in the ambulance, taking with them any relevant information, medication records, medication, and the child's comforter.

Calpol Administration

