Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy

Policy statement: all reasonably appropriate steps are taken to protect children from illness and infection.

Illness and infection control procedures include:

- Regularly cleaning and sterilising play areas, toys and other resources.
- Ensuring children are carefully monitored when using resources which may transfer infection such as sand, water and messy play including cooking and playdough.
- Providing tissues, a lidded bin and hand wipes for the children to use independently – monitoring children's use and supporting hand washing after use.
- Teaching children to cough or sneeze into their elbows (like an elephant) and then wash their hands.
- Using good hand washing techniques to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination.
- Teaching children to wash their hands regularly and effectively – please reinforce this at home.
- Dealing with bodily fluids safely.
- Keeping children safe around animals.
- Talking to children about health and safety, germs, viruses etc as appropriate for their ages and levels of understanding.

Please note that if your child is unable to participate in normal daily routines, is irritable, continuously crying or requires more attention than can be safely provided without impeding the health, safety and wellbeing of other children in the setting or is not well enough to attend other provisions such as school or nursery, they should be at home with parents.

If a child falls ill parents will be asked to collect them as quickly as possible and keep them at home for the advised exclusion time including, for example –

- For diarrhoea and sickness - 48 hours after last bout.
- A child with a temperature must be clear of their temperature without the assistance of medication for at least 24 hours before returning to the setting. As a general rule, **a temperature in children under 5 over 38C is a fever**
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- If a child is prescribed medicine from their GP, they must be taking the medication for 24 hours before they can return to the setting. This is in case of any reactions the medicine may cause.

- High temperature (fever) as per the NHS guidelines - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/fever-in-children

- For coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms including colds and flu – It is the parent/carers responsibility to be open and honest with the setting and keep their child at home if they have tested positive. The child must be kept off for 3 days from the test date.
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- Following UK Health Protection Agency guidance for other common childhood illnesses as per the Exclusion Table – https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources

If a child arrives at the setting with an illness or disease we understand to be infectious or that poses a risk to the other children in the setting or ourselves, we will expect the child not to attend the setting and ask the parent/carer to take the child home and not return until they have been well for the recommended period of time.

Procedure if a child falls ill

- The child will be treated using first aid and / or medication (with prior written permission) if appropriate.
- The child will be isolated if necessary.
- Every effort will be made to telephone parents to collect the child.
- In an emergency, 999 / 111 will be contacted for further advice.
- Emergency contacts will be telephoned if parents are not available.

If parents are ill – please consider whether it is safe to bring your child to the setting, to protect your child, other children and staff members.

Confidentiality – where possible, confidentiality will be maintained; however, please note that details of illnesses will be shared if advised by the Local Authority, Public Health England, Ofsted or other agencies. Please see the Confidentiality Policy for more information.
Wherever possible we will inform the other parents if there is a child we care for that has a diagnosed infectious disease that we are permitted to share information with.

Reporting a notifiable disease – If a child is suffering from a notifiable disease, identified as such in the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, we will act on advice given by the Health Protection agency and inform Ofsted of any action taken.

Payment Of Fees - In accordance with the signed contract agreed with parents we expect to be paid for the child's place even if they are excluded from the setting for an illness or an infectious disease.

If we or one of the members of our family, have a confirmed infectious disease, we will inform you as soon as we are able. As we will not be able to offer our childminding service, we will not charge you for the time the service is unavailable.

If you have any questions, please ask. Thank you.

Annual Review Date and Initials -