



Illness and Infections

At Enchanted Day Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending, including oral health, through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand and face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately. PPE is optional and in the absence of this, staff must ensure adequate personal hygiene e.g. hand washing.
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial and antiviral cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child

- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear or use shoe covers when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Provide fresh laundered bedding for each child on a daily basis. Bedding will never be shared by children.
- Where applicable wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.
- 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.

If a child becomes ill under the care of Enchanted Day Nursery, we take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action to meet that child's needs. The manager or senior staff member, reserves the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell.

1. The nursery manager will contact the parent and ask for them to collect their child and seek medical advice, if they show signs/symptoms of any illnesses that require an exclusion period (see illness/infection chart). The child will be cared for in a quiet and calm area during this time. Children will need to be collected within an hour of initial phone call to parents.
2. If a child's temperature is 38C or above, the parent will be asked for authorisation for Calpol. Parents will give written permission on registration, to inform Enchanted Day Nursery of whether the child is allergic to any medication, whether they have had Calpol before and whether they give consent for it to be administered in an emergency.
3. If there is a case of food poisoning affecting two or more children/staff within the nursery, we inform Ofsted within 14 days of the incident.
4. If there is an outbreak/spread of infectious diseases, the nursery manager will report to the HSE from RIDDOR and/or Ofsted.
5. Where a medical professional confirms a contagious disease/infection, the nursery manager will ask the parents to contact the setting, so all other parents can be made aware (child's name will be kept confidential).
6. If staff are pregnant or suspect they may be pregnant we would advise them to seek medical advice if they have been exposed to an infectious illness.
7. If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery 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 nursery, 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.

In addition:

- The nursery manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus and/or pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis