



04 Health procedures

04.5 Unwell children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach, the Nursery manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, placing a tepid flannel on their neck and kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly.
- If children fall asleep in-situ it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable.
- Sleeping children are regularly checked at least every ten minutes and are within sight and/or hearing of staff.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to Ashridge Nursery; Ashridge Nursery can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for **24 hours** to ensure there is no adverse reaction. This is increased to **48 hours** for infectious illnesses, to ensure they are also no longer infectious.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents must keep children home for **48 hours** following the last episode.
- For Respiratory Illnesses - Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend the setting.
- Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to the setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.
- If a child has a positive COVID-19 test result they should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.
- Children living with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result can continue to attend as normal.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- Ashridge Nursery has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.

- The Nursery manager notifies their line manager if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The Nursery manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The Nursery manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from Ashridge Nursery until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)

- If a child has been given Calpol (or similar) before their session, they cannot attend their session as symptoms may be masked but the child may still be ill.
- Ashridge Nursery cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis, unless there is an immediate reason for doing so.
- Settings do not normally keep such medicine on the premises as they are not allowed to 'prescribe'.
- Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of Ashridge Nursery for a normal day.
- A child over two who is not well, and has a temperature, must be kept cool and the parents asked to collect straight away.

Whilst the brand name Calpol is referenced, there are other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief such as Nurofen for children over 3 months.

Further guidance

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

Medication Administration Record (Early Years Alliance 2019)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf