

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, top clothing may be removed to make them more comfortable, but children are not undressed or sponged down to cool their temperature. A high temperature should never be ignored, but it is a natural response to infection.
- 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.
- 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.

Notifiable diseases and infection control

If educators suspect a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted in the United Kingdom or abroad, immediate medical assessment is required. The service manager or deputy will call 111 and inform parents / carers.

Preventative measures are taken to reduce the risk of an outbreak returning. When an individual shows signs of an infectious illness, they are advised not to attend the service. If a child is already at the setting, they will be made comfortable in a space away from the other children to rest until they are able to be collected. The importance of thorough handwashing will be reiterated, and the educators will promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with children and young people.

In the case of an outbreak of a notifiable disease which has been confirmed by a medical professional, the setting manager will seek further advice from the UKHSA, if not already contacted by them.

The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the UK Health Security Agency(UKHSA), Ofsted, or the childminder agency in the event of an outbreak.

Unwell children upon arrival

On arrival, it is vital that parents/carers inform a member of staff if they notice their child may be showing signs of being unwell. It is the responsibility of the parents / carers to ensure their child does not attend the service if they are not fit to; this is a precautionary measure to prevent other children or staff from becoming ill. If a child is brought into the service with a non-prescription medication to treat a temporary illness or appears to show signs of being unwell, the setting manager will use their discretion to decide whether a child is fit to remain in the service.

Infection control for bodily fluids – transmissible viruses

- 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. Transmittable viruses are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene measures are put in place to protect all staff and children/young people. These include 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/carers to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and designated area mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables, other furniture or toys/resources affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are removed where possible and cleaned using disinfectant. For larger items such as furniture, these must be cleaned immediately with disinfectant.

- Baby mouthing toys must be cleaned prior to another baby using them. All toys/resources are cleaned regularly. As a minimum, this should be carried out weekly, using sterilising solution for plastic toys/resources.

Handwashing

Handwashing is a crucial infection control measure which reduces the spread of illness. Adults, children and young people should regularly wash their hands, and increase this where there is an infection outbreak.

This should be carried out by all:

- After outside breaks
- Before meals and snack times
- Before preparation of snack and meals
- After using the toilet
- After nappy or clothing changes
- After the removal of personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves.
- After blowing noses
- Before and after administering medication

Public Health England advises that children and staff should be encouraged to catch sneezes with a tissue, bin the tissue and wash their hands.

- 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.

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.

*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.
(www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis)

Further guidance

[Medication Administration Record](#) (Alliance Publication)

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

[High temperature \(fever\) in children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)