

2.8 Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Giant Leap Childcare we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers. In the interest of keeping children healthy and minimising infection we will implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible. Our policy is that if in our teams opinion that a child is not well enough to remain at nursery, parents will be requested to collect their child.
- Should a child have a temperature fever, they must remain off nursery for a minimum of 24 hours. We will not accept children into nursery during this period.
- We will also not accept children into nursery if they have had any pain relief such as Calpol before their session, as this can mask serious illness.
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) 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, chicken pox, scarlet fever and Group A strep, to protect other children in the nursery. This information can be found in each room and main office. Contact our local HPU for Cumbria and Lancashire on 0344 225 0562.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We may notify Ofsted and our HPU unit in some instances where we have any child or staff member with a notifiable disease such as acute meningitis. If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, all parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- For any illness that do not specifically require an exclusion period, in the event of multiple cases, the manager holds the decision to add a temporary exclusion period.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they

have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell)

- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager of the room or the senior manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
- For children who have a reaction that are minor (hives/rashes, etc), the nursery stores Piriton on site and can administer one dose providing consent given from parents.
- Information/posters about head lice are readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the Senior Nursery Manager on duty should contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area and Ofsted if required. 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. The nursery also needs to ensure that it follows all guidance given and that the appropriate authority is notified.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- If the sickness is severe, a designated member of staff should call for an ambulance immediately whilst still ensuring that the child continues to be comforted and there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle (however, if the need arises, appointed members of staff have business insurance).
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- The most appropriate member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance
- Staff may also require support following the incident.

Hospitalisation

- Children who have had a period of time in hospital, whether that be for a short/long stay, will be excluded from nursery for a period of at least 24 hours. This is to ensure that they are fully fit and well before returning to nursery.

Immunisations

- Children who have had any immunisations may experience some discomfort, and in some cases a reaction. We would expect that children remain off for a 24 hour period so that parents and carers can look out for any unusual signs of illness.

Head Lice

At times children may receive head lice as they are in close contact with each other. The nursery will put signs in view of parents when this has been informed and take precautionary steps to avoid head lice spreading.

- Staff are to wear their hair up at all times
- Parents are advised to tie their children's hair up, where possible.
- If found, parents must inform the nursery as soon as possible
- Staff will discuss the process of treatment and ensure parents understand their part in completing the treatment to ensure that all head lice and eggs are destroyed.

Reviewed: 15/10/2025	Name: Jade Taylor	Signed: JTaylor
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