



Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School



ILLNESS AND ABSENCE POLICY

Infectious and Communicable Diseases

Reviewed By: Nursery Manager -

Date approved by Directors: December 2019

Date for Review: December 2020

POLICY STATEMENT

Charters Ancaster Nursery and Forest School is committed to the health and safety of all children and staff who play, learn and work here. We recognise it is our responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of our children, staff and parents through identifying and discussing health issues in an open and positive way. We endeavour to maintain the best standards of care for our children and to ensure their health and well being is maintained at all times.

In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment we ask that parents/carers refrain from bringing their child into nursery if they are sick and/or displaying signs of illness. Also if any siblings are unwell please do not bring them into the setting but if asked staff will bring your children out to meet you at your convenience.

The Nursery will take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and so in accordance with the procedures set out in the Health and Safety and First Aid Policies, parents/carers will be notified immediately if their child has become ill and needs to go home. Poorly children will be comforted, kept safe and under close supervision until they are collected.

We operate an 'open door' policy towards parents/carers in the nursery, so please feel free to discuss any concerns about your child with their Key person or Nursery Manager.

WE AIM TO:-

- Ensure sick children are identified
- Ensure sick children are cared for appropriately
- Protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- Enable our staff and parents to be clear about the requirements and procedures when a child is unwell.

PROCEDURES:-

- If any child is thought to be unwell we will assess the condition of the child in a kind and caring manner. The child may become distressed so it is important to be calm and reassuring. The Nursery Manager or her deputy in her absence must be informed of any sick children.
- We understand the needs of working parents and will not exclude children unnecessarily. It is however at the discretion of the manager when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness or infection and that decision is final. Decisions will be made and take into account the needs of the child and those within the group.

EXCLUDING A CONTAGIOUS CHILD

- Any child with an infectious or contagious disease will be excluded for a certain period of time. If staff suspect that a child is infectious or has a contagious disease they will advise that parents consult a doctor before returning to the nursery.
- Should a child become ill whilst at nursery, the Nursery Manager or Key person will contact the parent or emergency contact. We ask that the child be collected within one hour if possible. The child will be comforted by the key person, who will take appropriate action which will include medical advice if necessary, whilst awaiting the arrival of parent /carer.
- Our staff will report any worries about a child's health or well-being to the parent/carers immediately. Parent/carers are responsible for keeping the Nursery informed about their child's health.
- We advise that no child may attend Nursery whilst suffering from a communicable disease and that they should be excluded for the periods recommended. Please see our guidelines for illness/communicable diseases. (page 6-8)

IN THE EVENT OF A 'TEMPERATURE'

- Parents/carers will be contacted should their child have a high temperature of 38c/101F or higher, and will be requested to collect their child as soon as possible.

MINOR ILLNESSES

- Coughs and colds do not necessarily require the child to be excluded from the nursery, but this will depend on the severity and how the child is able to cope with nursery routine. A child whom appears unwell may be refused admission. This will be at the discretion of the manager.
- If your child has not been their normal self at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought into the nursery, please mention it to your child's key person or Nursery Manager to let them know how to best contact you during the day and how they can support your child whilst they are at nursery.

SORE THROATS-

- Any child complaining of a sore throat or having uncontrollable fits of coughing, or a severe runny nose cannot be accepted at nursery.

RETURN AFTER BEING SENT HOME

- If a child has had to go home prematurely due to illness, they should remain at home until they are better for at least 24 hours, or according to the times set out in the table below. If a member of staff becomes ill at work, similar restrictions on their return will apply.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL TRIP PROCEDURES

- Should the Nursery Manager consider the illness or situation needs immediate medical attention, the emergency services will be contacted to take the child directly to hospital and the parent/carer will be contacted accordingly.
- **In the unlikely event of the parent/carer not being available the most senior member of staff will assume charge and if necessary take the child to hospital along with relevant details and another member of staff. The most senior staff member left in the Nursery will take charge there until the Managers return. eg deputy or Business manager**

NOTIFYING THE NURSERY OF ILLNESS

- If a child or member of staff becomes ill outside school & nursery hours, they should notify the school & nursery as soon as possible. The minimum exclusion periods outlined in the table below will then come into operation.

NOTIFYING PARENTS OF ILLNESS IN THE NURSERY

- If any infectious or communicable disease is detected within the nursery's premises, the nursery will inform parents/carers personally in writing as soon as possible. The nursery is committed to sharing as much information as possible about the source of the disease and the steps being taken to remove it where appropriate. Ofsted will also be informed of any infectious or communicable diseases discovered within the nursery's premises.

ONGOING DISCHARGE FROM NOSE/EYES/EARS

- A child has ongoing discharge from their ears, nose or eyes the parent/carer will be advised to seek advice before their child is allowed back to the nursery and in some cases a doctor's note may be required before returning.

CONJUNCTIVITIS

- To prevent the spread of conjunctivitis, suspected cases will be reported immediately to parents/carers who will be requested to take their child from nursery to be seen by the doctor or pharmacist for advice on what treatment is required. Once the child has been treated and the conjunctivitis appears controlled, providing the child is happy they may return to nursery, again this will be at the discretion of the managers and in discussion with the parent /carer to ensure the spread of the infection is reduced to a minimum.
- **When treatment is not given the child should only return to nursery when the symptoms have cleared up.**

UNEXPLAINED RASH

- Parents will be contacted if their child develops an unexplained rash and be requested to seek medical advice which they should follow before the child returns to nursery.

HEAD LICE

- When a case of head lice is discovered at nursery, the situation will be handled carefully and safely. The child concerned will not be isolated from

other children, and there is no need for them to be excluded from activities or sessions at the nursery.

- When the child concerned is collected, their parent/carer will be informed in a sensitive manner.
- Other parents/carers will be informed as quickly as possible in writing, including advice and guidance on treating head lice. The infected child will not be identified. Staff will check themselves regularly for lice and treat whenever necessary.

MINIMUM EXCLUSION PERIODS FOR ILLNESS AND DISEASE

Disease	Period of Exclusion
Antibiotics prescribed	Minimum of 48 hours from first dose
Chicken Pox	5 days from when the rash first appeared. If the spots are scabbed over and dried up the child may return to nursery.
Conjunctivitis	24 hours or until the eyes have stopped 'weeping'
Diarrhoea & Sickness	A child who has sickness or diarrhoea whilst at the nursery is to be collected immediately and kept away for 48hours from the last time they were sick or had a runny stool.
Diphtheria	Exclusion as advised by Public Health-highly contagious
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning	Return when symptoms have ceased.
Salmonella and Dysentery	24 hours or until advised by the doctor
German Measles (Rubella)	Minimum of 4 days absence from onset of rash. NB Rubella can be harmful to expectant mothers
Glandular Fever	Until certified well
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	During acute phase and while spots/blisters are present -usually able to return after 5 days

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Hepatitis A	7 days from onset of jaundice and when recovered and declared fit by a doctor.
Hepatitis B	Until clinically well as declared fit by doctor.
High temperature	24 hours
Impetigo (and other infectious skin disorders eg cold sores)	Highly infectious .Child should not return until all scabs have cleared from the infected area and the skin has healed.
Infective hepatitis	7 days from the onset
Measles	7 days from when the rash first appeared
Meningitis	Until certified well by doctor
Mumps	7 days minimum or until the swelling has subsided and temperature is normal.
Pediculosis (lice)	Until treatment has been given
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	21 days from the onset
Plantar warts	No exclusion. Should be treated and covered
Poliomyelitis	Until certified well by appropriate public health official
Ringworm of scalp	Until cured .
Ringworm of the body	Until treatment has been given. Seldom necessary to exclude if treatment given.
Scabies-red itchy rash between the fingers.	Requires immediate treatment and then child can return once it is given.
Scarlet fever and streptococcal <i>(The bacteria can cause throat and ear infections, pin point rash and the skin becomes dry and flaky.)</i>	A child cannot be accepted until fully recovered and a course of treatment completed.

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Slapped cheek disease, Fifth disease- red cheeks , sore throat, high temperature etc	This disease can be harmful to expectant mothers therefore do not bring your child to Nursery until they are fully recovered.
Threadworms	No need for exclusion but prompt treatment necessary for the whole family. The Nursery should be informed.
Tonsillitis- <i>Tonsils swell, become red and inflamed and may show spot</i>	A child cannot be accepted until fully recovered and a course of treatment completed.
Infection of the throat	3 days from the start of the treatment
Tuberculosis	Please liaise with the local Health Authority. A child may not return to nursery until fully recovered.
Typhoid fever	Until declared free from infection by a doctor or appropriate Health official.
Warts (including Verrucae)	Exclusion not necessary. Sufferer should keep feet covered.
Whooping cough	A child may not return to Nursery until fully recovered and a course of treatment completed-usually 21 days from onset.

- This list is not necessarily exhaustive, and staff are encouraged to contact local health services if they are in any doubts about any of the above illnesses.
- Parents/carers/staff should remember that if they or any other member of the family have any of the above illnesses, your child may not show any symptoms but may be incubating the illness and therefore infecting other Nursery users and staff.

