



Orchard House Sickness and Exclusion Policy

At Orchard House our priority is a child's wellbeing and to promote the health of all children attending including oral health. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in their home environment with familiar adults although we recognise that this may not always be possible.

In some cases, it may be necessary to exclude a child that is suffering from any of the childhood illnesses.

Children that are suffering from any of the childhood diseases should not return to nursery before the recommended isolation period (see "childhood illnesses chart").

Our procedure:

Sometimes a child can be fine in the morning but become unwell throughout the day, if this happens to minimise any spread of infection, we have implemented the following procedures.

- If a child becomes unwell during the day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to come and collect them as soon as possible. Any child that is unwell will be kept comfortable in a quiet area until their parent(s) arrive to collect them.
- If a child gets a temperature of 38.0 or over within the setting, then with parental written consent we will give one dose of Calpol or Nurofen appropriate for the child's age. But the parent **MUST** still come to collect the child from the setting. We will upload the medication form to our family app, parents **MUST** sign and acknowledge medication.

At Orchard House I have a very experienced team that will look at all relating factors to why the child may have spiked a fever and monitor closely until the child is collected, this is also recorded as evidence. All staff have a current 12hr Paediatric First Aid qualification.

- We follow the guidance given to us by the Public Health England (which was formerly known as Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other childcare providers. We follow their guidance on exclusion periods for any childhood illnesses such as chicken pox, measles and diarrhoea and sickness.
- Our Policy for diarrhoea and sickness is that they **MUST NOT** return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours of the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If a child 3 bouts of sickness or diarrhoea in the setting, then they will be sent home. We ensure that the setting is thoroughly cleaned and sterile.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours, the child can then return after 24 hours with antibiotics which can be administered by one of the practitioners as long as it is clearly labelled, and written consent has been obtained by parent(s). When we upload the medications form to our Family app, Parents must sign the form before one of our practitioners administer the medication to the child.
- If a child develops conjunctivitis or an eye infection, then they will be sent home to be treated. If they have any form of discharge or swelling, then they must not attend the setting.
- Hand, Foot and mouth, child, must be off nursery until all the blisters have scabbed over and the child is no longer contagious
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision is made by a manager or in their absence a senior lead practitioner.
- We have information for parents regarding outbreaks of Head Lice in the setting, we rely on parents to check their children's hair regularly. We would appreciate that if a parent is aware that their child has had head lice then they inform the nursery so we can notify other parents.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control, they will give guidance and support for each individual case. If we are not informed by the parent, we may be contacted by the IC nurse we will notify Ofsted and other appropriate agencies.

Transporting children to hospital:

If a child has a medical condition or their condition deteriorates within the setting in some cases, they may need further medical attention. In these cases, Orchard House will.

- The nursery manager or lead practitioner will call an ambulance immediately, we would **NOT** transport a child to hospital in our own transport.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent (s and arrange for them to meet us at the hospital.
- Redeploy practitioners, if necessary, for the safety of the other children.
- An appropriate practitioner will accompany the child in the ambulance, they **MUST** take the child's contact and consent forms with them including any medication or information needed.
- Practitioners should always remain calm.

We always aim to work closely with parents in regard to childhood disease and illnesses and keep them as well informed as possible. We also take into consideration many parents are working and may have to travel to collect their child. Our main committed is the health of all the children within our care at Orchard House and we would **NOT** send a child home if it was not appropriate.

This policy is reviewed yearly, and we will also take the considerations of parents and practitioners when reviewing or updating our policies and procedures.

Policy written and updated by Donna Bachelor 17th March 2024

