**Sick child policy**

We appreciate that parents need to be able to go to work, however if your child is unwell the best place for them is at home or with a family member. Young children are still in the process of developing their immune systems; during the first year of attending a group setting your child may have a few episodes of minor illness as they will be mixing with other children. We are happy to care for children with minor coughs and cold. However, an unwell child can affect everyone’s day and often requires the constant attention of a member of staff, who at the same time is responsible for other children and cannot give the care and special attention that they would get from a parent/family member at home. Although your child may play happily in the quiet of their own home, they may become uncomfortable and distressed in our setting. Our goal is to ensure that each child is healthy and happy during their time spent with us. Sometimes the child just needs the emotional love and support of their parent and the quietness of their home, which we cannot give.

We cannot care for children who are infectious, running a high temperature, had sickness or diarrhoea or who are feeling very unwell. The NHS recommend asking yourself these three questions when deciding if your child is well enough to attend the childcare setting:

* Is your child well enough to do the activities of the nursery day? If not keep your child at home.
* Does your child have a condition that could be passed on to another child or staff member? If so keep your child at home.
* Would you take a day off work if you had this condition? If so keep your child at home.

It is important that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea then you keep them at home for a full **48 hours after** **their last bout of illness**. This not only gives your child time to fully recover and not catch anything else while their immune system is low, it also minimises the spread of infection to the other children/staff. Children are still contagious before this time and this is the same procedure you will have to follow in all nurseries and schools in England.

Irritability, lethargic, persistent crying and wheezing are all sign that your child is unwell and needs to stay at home.

We do not allow children in the setting with Tonsillitis, Conjunctivitis or Hand Foot and Mouth Disease, as this is very contagious in babies/young children and from experience it can quickly spread around everyone including staff and other parents. Your child will most likely need at least 3 days away from the setting if they contract either and possibly more. Please speak to a member of staff for more guidance.

If your child is suffering from something as common as teething but is becoming very upset then we must consider their emotional well-being and consider the effect this is having on the other children. Therefore, in this situation you will also be asked to come and collect your child.

We are happy to administer medication that has been signed for **(see medication policy)** however we cannot give any child medicine which contains Aspirin. We can also not administer prescription medicines unless they have been prescribed for the child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. All medicine must stay in the original packaging, with the label clearing showing the child’s name, details and dosage.

Please see covid policy for our latest information regarding this.