



Poorly Children Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with our Langley School's First Aid Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

This policy applies to Bluebell Nursery to which the Nursery has the right to implement changes at times of high numbers of illness or diseases.

Bluebell Nursery recognises there is a need to treat all children whatever their age, gender, disability, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation with respect and dignity when intimate care is given. The child's welfare is of paramount importance, and their experience of intimate and personal care should be a positive one. It is essential that every child is treated as an individual and that care is given gently and sensitively: no child will be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature (38 degrees and higher) sickness, diarrhoea, or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager or Child's Keyperson calls a parent and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, Provide cool water, and kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using Fever Scans or other means i.e. ear thermometer.
- If a child's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then Calpol or paracetamol based medicine may be given following manufactures guidance around recommended dosage after gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies under 2 years old. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.

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- If a child is sent home from nursery with a fever, they must not return to the setting for at least 24 hours.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called, and the parents are informed. Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- If a child has not been given a prescription medicine before, or if the child is under 36 months, parents must keep them at home for 48 hours to ensure no adverse effect, and to give it time to take effect.
- After incidents of diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- 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 setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times however, at times of high challenges additional measures may need to be taken.

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Conjunctivitis (Eye Infections)

Conjunctivitis is a common eye infection that can present with symptoms such as redness, watering, discharge, irritation, or crusting around the eyes. To ensure the wellbeing of all children and to prevent the spread of infection across the setting, the following procedures apply:

Medication Requirements

Children under 2 years old:

Treatment for conjunctivitis should be provided through prescribed eye drops from a healthcare professional. These will include a pharmacy label with the child's name, dosage, and administration instructions.

Children aged 2 years and over:

Treatment may be provided using **over-the-counter eye drops**, which may **not include a prescription label**. In these cases, parents/carers must provide:

- The original packaging
- Clear manufacturer instructions
- A completed medication consent form

Attendance and Exclusion Period

To reduce the risk of spreading infection:

- Children must remain at home for the **first 24 hours after beginning treatment**, whether the medication is prescribed or purchased over the counter.
- Children may return to nursery **after the initial 24-hour period**, provided they are well in themselves and able to participate comfortably in daily activities.

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Administering Eye Drops in the Setting

- Medication will only be administered once all required documentation and packaging are provided.
- Staff will follow the instructions supplied on the prescription label or manufacturer guidelines.
- Any doses administered in the setting will be recorded in line with the nursery's medication policy.

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 the setting 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.

HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV virus, like other 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.

- 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/slucing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces, or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces, or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.
- Baby mouthing toys are kept clean and plastic toys cleaned in sterilising solution regularly.

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Administering of Antihistamine

- Antihistamine would be administered in cases of an allergic reaction following manufacturers guidance on dosage unless a prescribed label details differ.
- On identifying cases of an allergic reaction, attempts are made to contact parents to gain permission, before administering, if no contact is made the first aider will act in the best interest of the child.
- If the reaction continues, parents will be informed and asked to collect to seek medical advice.

****Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)**

The use of paracetamol-based medicine may not be agreed in all cases. A setting 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'. However, given the risks to very young babies of high temperatures, insurers may allow minor infringement of the regulations as the risk of not administering may be greater. Ofsted is normally in agreement with this. In all cases, parents of children are asked to sign to say they agree to the setting administering paracetamol-based medicine in the case of high temperature on the basis that they are on their way to collect and the practitioner is following the manufactures guidance.

Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of the setting for a normal day. A child who is not well, and has a temperature, must be kept cool and the parents are 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.

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Outbreaks of illness / infection in Bluebell Nursery children

Instances of illness / infection that affects 3-4 children in the Bluebell Nursery setting will be considered as an outbreak.

- The setting manager notifies their line manager if there is an outbreak and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- Some activities such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

Further guidance

- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009) [Infection control | www.eyalliance.org.uk](http://www.eyalliance.org.uk)
- Medication Administration Record (Early Years Alliance 2019)
- [High temperature \(fever\) in children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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