



**FEVERSHAM**  
FIRST STEPS UNDERCLIFFE

# **SICKNESS & ILLNESS POLICY**

**UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2018**

## SICKNESS & ILLNESS

Children should not be left at nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent/s rather than at nursery with their peers. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child falls ill during the nursery day, their parent/carer will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an eye/ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, 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
- When a child first becomes ill and requires a course of antibiotics it is important that other children in the setting are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which may require socialising with other children and being part of a group setting. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours of the course
- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by management on duty and is non-negotiable
- 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, management should contact the *Infection Control (IC) Nurse* for their area, and *OFSTED*. 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

### **TRANSPORTING CHILDREN TO HOSPITAL:**

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately
- DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior 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

**This policy was reviewed by management on: 24.09.18**