



Sickness/Illness Policy

This policy has been devised to ensure that children who become unwell whilst at the Tinkers and Tribe are treated with sensitivity and respect. It is also to help us to protect other children from illness and the spread of infection. Children should not be left at the Setting 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.

PROCEDURE

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery:

- If a child becomes ill during the day, the parent(s) 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 or another familiar member of staff within the child's room.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an 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 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. With a case of conjunctivitis we ask that the child does not return to nursery for 24 hours after starting medication.
- 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.
 - It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course, even if they had been prescribed these antibiotics on a previous occasion.
- The nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable.

MENINGITIS PROCEDURE

If a parent informs Tinkers and Tribe that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager 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.



IF AN UNWELL OR INFECTIOUS CHILD COMES INTO THE NURSERY:

The manager or deputy manager reserves the right not to accept any child who is unwell into the nursery. It is unfair on the child to be here when they need to be with their parent/carers or having one to one attention. It is also unfair to the rest of the children who are here if they are knowingly in contact with an illness or infection.

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING

All children must be kept away from nursery for a minimum of 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. If a child is sent home from the nursery the 48 hours exclusion still applies. Therefore if your child is due in the following day they will not be able to attend. Children should only return to nursery when they are well enough and have regained their appetite.

FEVER

All children must be kept away from nursery until their fever has returned to normal. If a child is sent home from the nursery a 24 hours exclusion applies unless the temperature is related to teething. Therefore if your child is sent home due to a non teething related temperature and is due in the following day they will not be able to attend.

HEAD BUMP

If a child has bumped their head and they are well enough to continue to attend the setting, they must be closely monitored by the keyperson. The keyperson must look carefully for the signs and symptoms of concussion. The child must wear a "I bumped by head" sticker so all staff are aware to look out for the signs of a concussion. The parents must be informed of the head bump immediately and given the option to collect their child early. When the child is collected, parents must be given a copy of the accident form which details how the head bump happened. (This is important for medical professionals to gain a better understanding of the accident if the child later attends hospital) Parents must also be given a head bump slip noting the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the action to take if their child is presenting with these symptoms.

CHOKING/ASPIRATION

If a child has had an incident of choking with a partial obstruction or a very brief episode full obstruction when something has blocked an airway but is cleared with a cough or is swiftly dislodged by back slaps, The parents must be informed of the incident immediately and given the option to collect their child early. The child must be monitored for symptoms of



aspiration (where food/fluid) has been breathed into the lungs. If signs of aspiration are identified, the parents must be called to collect the child/or if the child is presenting with breathing difficulties then an ambulance must be called. Upon collection, the parents must be given a copy of the incident form which details how the choking/aspiration happened. (This is important for medical professionals to gain a better understanding of the accident if the child later attends hospital) They must also be given an aspiration slip noting the signs and symptoms of an aspiration and the action to take if their child is presenting with these symptoms.

SICKNESS AND ILLNESS

- The manager or deputy manager should be informed of any child who appears to be feeling unwell. If, after staff have done everything they can to make the child more comfortable, there is no sign of improvement, then the manager or deputy manager, in conjunction with the child's key person, will discuss whether or not to contact the parent/carers to come and collect their child.
- Management must be informed when a member of staff wants to call a parent regarding a sick child. If it is deemed to be in the best interests of the child to go home, the manager, deputy manager, or key person will ring the parent/carers, getting the number from the child's information which is held in the contact file. They will explain the signs and symptoms the child is displaying and ask them to come and collect him/her.
- If the manager, deputy manager, room leader or key person is unable to contact the parent/carer they will then go on to the next person on the contact list, usually the second parent/carer, continuing down the list of authorised persons as necessary.
- Whilst their parent/carers are being contacted the child should continue to be comforted by members of staff. Plenty of fluids should be offered to the child and if their temperature is higher or lower than usual this should be addressed immediately.
- Any other symptoms should be treated as necessary. The child should always be treated with the utmost sensitivity and respect as feeling poorly can be distressing and quite frightening for a child.
- They should have a staff member with them, preferably their key person, until their parent/carer or authorised person arrives to collect them.
- The child should have privacy as much as possible and be able to be in a quiet area away from other children, with the staff member. Usually a quiet area can be made in the child's playroom.
- Should a child's symptoms deteriorate whilst waiting for their parent/carers the manager or deputy manager should be informed immediately.
- If the manager or deputy manager feels that it is necessary, they should call for an ambulance. The manager or deputy manager must then inform the parent/carers to meet them at the local hospital. First aid should be administered to the child as necessary.



CALLING AN AMBULANCE

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle.

Dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. Answer all questions honestly and clearly.

- 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. If you are confident and assertive the child will feel reassured.

Reports should be written up by the manager/deputy manager, and key person and any witnesses to be kept on file. Members of staff will be offered time out and an opportunity to discuss what happened and how they are feeling.

INFECTION CONTROL

Please see poster below for guidance on infection control and the recommended period to be kept away from the setting in case of illness.

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

This policy was adopted by: Tribe Incorporated Ltd

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Written by: Alexandra Stewart

Role: Owner/Director/DSL/SENCO

Signed on behalf of provider: