

**6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies**

**Policy statement**

Little Owl Childcare aim to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

**Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

* If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – staff will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
* If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool and comfortable until a parent/emergency contact person collects the child.
* The child's temperature is taken using a forehead thermometer strip, kept in the first aid box.
* In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
* Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; We can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home until they have been given the first dose of the antibiotic.
* After diarrhoea and sickness, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
* Some activities, such as sand and water play where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
* We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from

www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\_C/1194947358374 and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

*Illness at home*

* Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they have any infection, and to inform Little Owl Childcare as to the nature of the infection so that the setting can alert any other parents/carers, and can make careful observations of any child who seems unwell. [This information will be shown in the foyer on the Parents information board and the Manager will inform the parents verbally]
* If children have had diarrhoea and/or sickness parents are asked not to bring them in until at least 48 hours after the last episode.

*Reporting of ‘notifiable diseases’*

* If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
* When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, Sarah McCormick will inform Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and act[s] on any advice given.

*HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis 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. We:

* Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* We will bag soiled clothing and put it into the child’s bag for parents when they collect.
* Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
* Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

*Nits and head lice*

* Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
* On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents asking them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice. If any Staff at Little Owl Childcare notice headlice parents/carers will be contacted to collect the child to treat the hair before returning back into nursery.

*Procedures for children with allergies*

* When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
* If a child has an allergy, we will note this on the ‘allergy list’ which is located on the staff board in nursery.
  + The allergen i.e. cats, dogs, food items.
  + The nature of the allergic reactions
  + What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epipen).
* Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
* Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.