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Illness and Infection Policy

Rationale

We are committed to providing an environment for children that helps prevent the spread of infection. This will entail children who are known to be infectious being **kept away** from our setting in order to maintain the health of others.

Procedure

If your child is slightly unwell due to a mild cold, teething etc. and can join in and enjoy the normal routines of the childminding day, please **discuss this with us** before their session because they may still be able to attend. However happy your child is here when well, when poorly they will be much happier with their family, so if they are feeling unwell, please keep them at home. If your child needs medication for any reason before coming to us, then please keep them at home until they are completely better. Medication wears off quickly and this leads to very irritable children who simply should remain at home.

If your child develops a temperature (37.5°C and over) they must stay home for at least 24 hours, once the temperature has subsided without the use of medication. This is the same for infectious illness such as chicken pox, please keep them at home until the infection passes. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must not return until 48 hours after the last episode in order to prevent the spread of infection to others. Please feel free to consult us if you are not sure if your child’s symptoms mean that they need to stay at home.

If your child becomes unwell during the day, we will contact you and it may be necessary for you to collect them. We will keep your child as comfortable as possible until you arrive but will not be able to isolate them from other children so a prompt collection is required.

If your child is prescribed with antibiotics or given any new medication (anything they have not had before), we ask that they stay home for a minimum of 48 hours after the first dose. This gives the antibiotics / medication a good opportunity to begin treating the infection / illness, as well as giving your child the opportunity to feel well enough to return to the setting and join in with our day to day routines.

Children with a notifiable disease must not attend until they have been cleared by their GP. If you are not sure if an illness is notifiable, please ask your GP or Health Visitor. We will inform you if any other child or adult has an infectious or notifiable disease. If a child who attends our setting has a notifiable disease, we are required to notify Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable but always within 14 days. We will also contact Public Health England (PHE) and act on any advice given.

In the event of a positive COVID test, *whether this be child or parent*, we ask for children to stay home for 3 days. We have a duty to stop the spread of illnesses and infections and due to children no longer being tested, we require this amount of time to ensure the safety of other children and staff in our setting. **We do not condone testing children for COVID 19.** Following government guidelines, if we as staff test positive for COVID 19, we will need to close our setting for 5 days. This is because, unlike schools, we have no additional staff to cover our time off and so we would need to close completely.   
 If failing to comply with our sickness policy causes the closure of our setting due to sickness, this may result in full fees for the duration of our closure.

**We will give as much notice as possible to our families if we must close the setting due to an illness within the house .**

**Written By:**

**Louisa Marley and Hannah Marley**

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