**Policy**

We aim to promote good health including oral health of children attending the setting in line with National Health Service (NHS) guidance. This policy includes the procedures for responding to Covid-19 in line with our Managing Covid-19 Policy.

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery follows the Public Health England (PHE) guidance on infection control and seeks advice from them if necessary. Any notifiable illness with be reported to the PHE and Ofsted where required.

**Is my child too unwell for nursery? Exclusion periods:**

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| Disease/Illness | Exclusion Period  |
| Antibiotics  | Remain home for first 24hours of the course.  |
| Conjunctivitis | Nursery will keep eyes cleaned with cool boiled water and apply prescribed medication. |
| Chickenpox | Child can return to nursery once all spots have scabbed over.  |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting  | Child must be 48hours clear from the last bout.  |
| Measles | Child can return 4 days after onset of initial rash.  |
| Meningitis  | Seek doctors’ advice. |
| Mumps | Can return 5 days after the onset of swelling. |
| Whooping Cough (Pertussis) | Can return 48 hours after the start of antibiotics or two weeks after start of cough without antibiotics.  |
| Scarlet Fever  | Child can return 24 hours after the start of antibiotics. |
| Impetigo | Child can return 48 hours after starting prescribed cream. |
| Ringworm  | Child can return once they have started treatment.  |
| Temperature | We will administer Calpol to a child with a temperature above 38c and monitor at nursery. We will administer Calpol to a child with a temperature of 39c or above, but the child will require collection due to the risk of convulsion with a 24hour exclusion period. A child that is reliant on Calpol must remain at home. |
| Hand Foot and Mouth  | Child can attend nursery with hand foot and mouth. In the event of an outbreak whereby the nursery will put measures in to place excluding for 48hours after the first spots appear. An outbreak is deemed at 3 or more cases.  |
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**Procedure**

* If children appear unwell during the day, the nursery will work with parents and will take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection.
Parent(s) may be contacted and asked to collect their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with a member of staff. If a child is not collected, we’ll refer to our late/non collection policy.
* The setting will respond by using the table above which has been taken from NHS guidance specific to the symptoms displayed.
* Parents are advised to seek medical advice from GP or pharmacy before returning child to the setting. (this includes testing for Covid-19).
* 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 24 hours of the course. This is applicable in all cases even where no exclusion period is stated on the table above i.e. tonsilitis.
* In extreme cases of emergency (sickness included), an ambulance is called, and the parent informed. A member of staff must accompany the child and collect registration forms, relevant medication sheets, care plans, risk assessments, medication and the child’s comforter. Staff must not transport children to hospital in their own vehicle.
* It is at the Nursery Manager’s discretion whether to allow a child into nursery if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no exclusion period or if this is after any exclusion period has passed or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious. The Nursery Manager will need to consider the demeanour of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in nursery activities.
* Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery must be informed if a child has a contagious disease/illness to prevent the illness spreading.
* The child's temperature is taken using a digital ear thermometer by following the manufacturers guidance. A new thermometer is purchased regularly.
* In line with the NHS Guidance a normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this can vary slightly from child to child. A high temperature is 38C. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/fever-in-children/>
* If a child has a temperature of 38C-38.9C then we will administer calpol and monitor the child’s temperature for one hour to make sure this goes below 38C, if it does not then we will require collection.
* If a child has a temperature above 39C, we will call for immediate collection and require the child to stay off nursery for at least 24 hours. We ask that any child who is unwell and sent home with a temperature only returns to nursery when they are no longer reliant on Calpol.
* If your child has been given Calpol or Nurofen the night prior or the morning of their day at nursery, please inform the nursery staff in the room at drop off.
* Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a contagious illness pose a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.

Please see medication policy for rules and guidance on administering and storing medication.

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 and clothing that are soiled with blood, salvia, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Soiled items are put in a bag for parents to take home.
* Clear spills of blood, salvia, urine, faeces or vomit using disinfectant solution. Any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.

It is recognised that promoting oral health in early years is essential to protecting young teeth and establishing good habits in good dental health. Examples of promoting good oral health at our settings may include:

* educating children with a range of activities about good oral health.
* Share oral health messages with parents & carers.
* ensuring that our menus are suitable to promote good oral health.
* promoting a partnership with local dentists and their services.

**Immunisations**

Our nursery has a duty of care to ensure that all children, families, and educators are provided with a high level of protection during whilst attending our setting. This includes notifying children, families, and staff when an excludable illness or disease is present within the nursery; maintaining a record of children’s immunisation status; complying to relevant health department exclusion guidelines; and Increasing staff awareness of cross infection through physical contact with others.

Where possible we will keep an up-to-date record of children’s immunisation status. Some children under our care may be at a higher risk of exposure to infectious diseases due to contact with more children and adults than children at home. Keeping a current record of all children’s immunisation status helps us to quickly identify which parents/carers need to be informed if there is an outbreak of a specific disease.

We will work with Parents and carers to provide support regarding immunisations and further information can be found <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

**Further guidance**

* Dental Health Care- NHS <https://www.dentalhealthcareeoe.nhs.uk/downloads/category/early-years/>
* Live Well- NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/take-care-of-your-teeth-and-gums/>
* Infectious illnesses in children- NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/health/infectious-illnesses-in-children/>
* Health Protection in schools and other childcare facilities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>
* Coronavirus Covid 19 Early Years and Childcare <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#history>
* NHS vaccinations and when to have them- NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

**Linked Policies**

Managing Covid-19 Policy