



## **Acorns Infection Prevention and Control Policy**

### **Policy statement**

Acorns has a 'Duty of Care' to promote the good health of all children, staff and parents who attend the nursery. To help keep children healthy and minimise the spread of infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be at home with parental attention.

### **We aim to:**

- **Provide a clean and healthy environment**
- **Protect children and staff from preventable infection**
- **Ensure sick children are identified**
- **Ensure sick children are cared for appropriately**
- **Enable our staff and parents to be clear about requirements and procedures when a child is unwell**
- **Ensure sufficient handwashing facilities are available**

### **Procedure**

- We follow guidelines from our Registering authority and Public health agency and exclude specific contagious diseases i.e. Covid-19, Vomiting and diarrhoea, chicken pox, to protect other children and staff from becoming ill. **(Please see below our list of exclusion periods)**
- If a child becomes ill during the day, we will assess the condition and contact parents to inform them, permission may be sought to allow staff

to administer medicine due to high fever etc or the parents may be asked to collect their child as soon as possible.

- We understand the needs of working parents and will not exclude children from the nursery unnecessarily, it is however at the discretion of the manager to confirm the exclusion period and this is non-negotiable.
- Staff must ensure that they and the children they care for follow good practice in handwashing. They must ensure there is sufficient facilities available. (running water and soap, hand gel or sanitiser that is 70% ethanol or stronger and disposable hand towels)

**Staff have been instructed to wash their hands or help children doing so:**

- 1) Upon arrival into nursery and re-entering the building throughout the day
- 2) Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- 3) After using the toilet
- 4) Before and after nappy changing
- 5) After coughing or sneezing into hands or a disposable tissue
- 6) Before and after eating
- 7) After physical contact with others.

- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to stop the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have encountered a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- If a child is unwell and prescribed antibiotics the child must be excluded from the nursery for the first 24 hours of the course.

## **COVID-19**

The **main** symptoms of COVID-19 Symptoms are:

- a high temperature of over 37.8 oC (feel hot to touch)
- a new continued cough
- a loss to your sense of smell or taste

If a child or staff member becomes unwell and displays symptoms of COVID-19 they must be sent home immediately and advised to follow the latest guidance on home isolation on the PHA website.

If a child is awaiting collection they will be separated from their group and isolated with one member of staff in the nursery office, the window will be opened to allow ventilation and the door will be closed. As the office is a small area the staff member will have to wear PPE. A face mask should be worn and if contact with the child is necessary, then gloves, and apron should be worn also.

Once the child or staff member has left the nursery, we will follow guidance on cleaning non-healthcare settings to ensure the areas have been disinfected and any PPE and other waste is disposed of safely. The manager will report any outbreaks to the contact numbers below.

### **To help prevent the spread of the virus we will follow the following measures:**

- Wash hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser/gel
- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or use your elbow, not your hands
- Avoid touching your face
- Keeping children and staff together in small groups
- Try to maintain 2 metres distance from others as much as possible
- Keep the nursery well ventilated by opening windows and make use of outdoor space as much as possible
- Ensure we have more stringent cleaning procedures
- Reduce face to face contact with parents and carers
- Provide parents with information and guidelines so they are aware of our procedures if their child or someone from their household is displaying symptoms and what the exclusion periods are.

### **Meningitis Procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that the child has meningitis, the manager will report this to Environmental health and our registering authority – Early Years Team HSCT. We will follow guidance and support in each individual case.

### **Vomiting and Diarrhoea**

All children must be kept away from nursery for a minimum of 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea, therefore if your child is due into nursery 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.

### **Febrile Convulsion, Anaphylactic Shock and any other fit or seizure**

Anaphylactic shock is a medical emergency that may require administration of Epinephrine (EpiPen) and only staff with EpiPen training should be called upon to administer such treatment.

If any child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately and follow these steps:

- Dial 999 and ask for an ambulance
- Always answer all questions honestly and clearly and remain calm
- Whilst waiting on the ambulance a staff member must contact the child's parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- The manager or deputy manager will go to the hospital with the child, taking the child's registration form which includes all their medical details and the consent for first aid, and any care plans that are in place for the child.

## **Outbreak of Infection**

An outbreak is defined as 'having two or more children or staff with an infection, caused by the same micro-organism, at the same time in the same place'.

However, a single case of a serious disease may also require an outbreak response, e.g. E. coli 0157, diphtheria or measles.

We must report as normal to the PHA and the Early years team any serious or unusual illness including,

- Escherichia coli (VTEC) (also called E.coli 0157) infection
- Food poisoning
- Hepatitis
- Measles, mumps, rubella
- Meningitis
- Typhoid
- Whooping cough
- COVID-19

If we suspect there is an outbreak of infection, we will contact environmental health, Newtownabbey – 028 9034 0160 and the health protection duty room at the Public Health Agency, Belfast 029 9055 3930 and our Early years team (HSCT) Carrickfergus 028 9331 5112.

## Exclusion Periods

Infection/Illness	Minimum exclusion period
Covid-19	Advised to follow latest guidance and home isolate.
Vomiting	48 hours from last episode
Diarrhoea	48 hours from last episode
Conjunctivitis	24 hours after treatment has started
Chickenpox	5 – 7 days or until spots have crusted over
Measles	5 days from onset of rash
Meningococcal Infection	Until fully recovered from illness
Scarlet Fever	24 from commencing antibiotics
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencing antibiotics
Slapped cheek	Nursery must be informed due to <b>serious risk</b> to vulnerable children and pregnant women
Hand, foot and Mouth	Until the rash has cleared
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed
Diphtheria	Exclusion is essential – <b>Check with duty room/environmental health</b>