

## **Sickness and Illness Policy**

This policy to be read in conjunction with 'Procedures in case of Covid illness in Stanmore Montessori'

### **Procedures**

- If children appear unwell during the day - have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach - the manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf as soon as possible. In case of covid symptoms staff follow procedures as outlined in 'Procedures in case of Covid illness in Stanmore Montessori'
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts. Covid procedure is to be followed
- Temperature is taken using a 'fever scan' kept in the first aid box.
- Parents are asked to follow current government advice regarding isolation following a temperature or suspected Covid illness
- Stanmore Montessori reserve the right to refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning them to the setting
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep their child home until they are clear for 48 hours.
- We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of any notifiable illness such as food poisoning incidents, whooping cough
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the setting to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection.
- We have 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.
- Stanmore Montessori has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times.

### **Reporting of 'notifiable diseases' e.g. meningitis**

- If a parent informs the setting that their child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (infectious diseases) Regulations 1988, the manager will report this to the Infection Control (IC) nurse for Public Health England.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the IC.

### **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.

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children' nappies or pants. Mops and cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

### **Nits and head lice**

- If a parent find that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the setting so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep their child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have had head lice.

### **Transporting children to hospital**

The manager at Stanmore Montessori must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own car
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Re-deploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information, such as the Registration form, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident

***This policy was updated Jan 2022***