

Sickness and Illness Policy

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

Procedures in case of illness during the nursery day

- 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.
- Temperature is taken using a 'fever scan' kept in the first aid box.
- Stanmore Montessori reserve the right to refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease. This decision will be taken by the Manager on duty and is non-negotiable.
- 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, meningitis etc.
- 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.

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

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's 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.

Parents' responsibilities

- Do not send your child to nursery when unwell as this puts other children/staff at risk. An unwell child will not be able to partake in daily activities and requires 1:1 care which compromises the care of others.
- If your child is ill before they are due to attend nursery call the Manager and inform them of your child's illness as soon as is practically possible, especially in the case of a contagious illness. This may be particularly important if a child has come into contact with a pregnant member of staff or parent or a child or adult who has a compromised immune system.
- If your child has not been themselves at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought into nursery please inform a member of staff and let them know the best possible contact number in case a child needs to be collected before the end of their normal day.
- Parents MUST inform staff if they have had to administer medicine such as Calpol, other pain relief medication or antihistamine medication. This information is vital in case medical assistance should be required throughout the day.
- Parents MUST inform the nursery if any child attending the nursery is admitted to hospital, and the discharge instructions must be followed.
- Children should not return to nursery for a full 48 hours after the administration of antibiotics or anaesthesia.
- If a parent continually sends a sick child to nursery we will be forced to review that child's place.

Chicken pox

- All spots must have completely scabbed over, and your child free from other symptoms such as fever, before returning to nursery.
- All parents are to be informed that a case is present in the nursery so that they can check their child for symptoms.

Conjunctivitis

- This is contagious and many young children lack the self-care skills to help in the prevention of this infection spreading to others.
- Conjunctivitis needs to be diagnosed by a doctor and any treatment received should have commenced and been monitored before consideration of return to nursery.
- Eyes should not have any discharge before returning to nursery.

Coughs, colds and flu

- Do not normally require the child to be excluded from nursery but this depends upon the severity of the illness how your child is able to cope with the nursery day.
- Your child should be free from temperature and have energy levels needed to make the most of their day at nursery

Hand, foot and mouth

- All sores must be treated by a doctor and sores should not be weeping (usually 5 days incubation period)

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.

Sickness and diarrhoea

- Child should be 48 hours free from symptoms before attending nursery.

Unknown rashes

- Medical advice to be sought and a doctor's note will be needed informing that the child's rash is not contagious in order for the child to attend nursery.