



ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION POLICY

Alfresco childcare aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and colleagues within the nursery setting.

Alfresco Childcare

1. Encourages parents/carers to keep children at home if they are unwell: advises a parent not to give any medication which may mask symptoms before coming to nursery.
2. Will contact parents/carers if a child falls ill at nursery.
3. Will take appropriate emergency action in the case of a child developing a serious illness whilst at nursery.
4. Follows Public Health England (previously Health Protection Agency) Guidelines on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings for our Nursery Illness Policy and follow the guidance set in regard to exclusion periods.
5. Informs parents/carers of any communicable disease affecting the nursery.
6. Follows procedures to prevent the spread of infection within the nursery.
7. Will notify the appropriate organisation of any reportable illness/disease.

ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION POLICY

At Alfresco Childcare we aim to ensure the safety and well-being of all children and colleagues within the nursery setting. Many illnesses can be infectious before a full diagnosis can be made. Health guidelines indicate that it is not necessary to operate a policy of exclusion for all child illnesses but it is important that colleagues and parents/carers understand when exclusion is appropriate and necessary.

Children should remain at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at nursery with their peers.

The nursery manager/senior colleague has the right to refuse admission in the best interest of the child and other children in the nursery and this is non-negotiable. It is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.

If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents/carers will be informed of their child's exposure to the infection within 24 hours or the next working day to enable them to spot the early signs of illness.

The illness and exclusion policy seeks to:

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment through minimising or preventing the risk of the spread of a communicable disease/illness.
- Ensure colleagues and parents/carers are aware of their responsibilities.

- Establish a system and process for responding to the diagnosis of a communicable disease including making all nursery users aware of the diagnosis.

For guidance on exclusion periods we will make reference to the Public Health England (previously Health Protection Agency's) Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings

http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

(It is the responsibility of the Manager to ensure an up to date copy of current guidance on communicable diseases is available at the nursery for parents/carers)

IMMUNISATIONS

If children are not vaccinated, it is the responsibility of the parents/carers to inform the nursery to ensure that children/colleagues/parents/carers are not exposed to any unnecessary risks. The nursery manager must be aware of any children who are not vaccinated within the nursery in accordance with their age.

Parents/carers should be aware that some children will not be vaccinated in the nursery. This may be due to their age, medical reasons or parental choice. Our nursery does not discriminate against children who have not received their immunisations and will not disclose individual details to other parents/carers.

Information regarding immunisations must be recorded on children's registration documents and should be updated as and when necessary, including when the child reaches the age for the appropriate immunisation.

PROCEDURES

If a child appears unwell when they arrive at nursery or the parent has reported an illness to nursery colleagues, the nursery will ask parents/carers to take the child home until they are feeling better.

The nursery manager/senior colleague has the right to refuse admission in the best interest of the child and other children in the nursery and their decision is non-negotiable.

If a child appears or becomes unwell while at nursery:

1. The manager must be informed immediately. In the event the Manager is not available the Deputy Manager must be informed.
2. In the event that a child falls ill whilst at nursery, the key person or senior staff must contact the child's parents/carers.
3. If the child's parents/carers cannot be contacted, the emergency contacts listed on the registration form should be called. If these are all unavailable, take the necessary action to assist the child's medical health e.g. key person to care for the child in a quiet area until the parents/carers come to collect them.
4. At no time should the staff give any medication to a child unless it has been prescribed by a health professional. A health plan will then be issued.
5. If the illness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own / a colleague's vehicle.
 - a) Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
 - b) The key person should accompany the child to the hospital taking registration form, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.

6. If a child suffers from a medical incident, such as seizure or allergic reaction, this will be recorded on an Incident Form which can be found in the Accident Folder. This must be signed by the child's parent as soon as reasonably practicable and placed in the child's individual file.

If the illness appears to be communicable:

7. It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions to protect other children in the nursery. It is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection.

8. When determining the nature of a communicable disease and exclusion periods the current local guidance should be used. For guidance on exclusion periods the nursery manager will make reference to the Public Health England (previously Health Protection Agency's) Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Setting

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374 (It is the responsibility of the Manager to ensure an up to date copy of current guidance on communicable diseases is available at the nursery) The email address is available to parents in the porch

9. The nursery manager must follow the exclusion periods laid out in the Public Health England (previously Health Protection Agency's) Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings.

10. If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, the nursery manager must inform parents/carers of their child's exposure to the infection within 24 hours or the next working day. This will enable them to spot the early signs of this illness.

11. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child must be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.

12. No child or colleague known to be suffering from a communicable disease or considered too ill to participate in normal nursery activities should be admitted to the nursery.

13. Attendance at the nursery is at the discretion of the Manager and is non-negotiable.

14. There is an illness sheet in the porch where illnesses are made available to parents which are currently in the nursery.

WHO TO NOTIFY

Public Health England: Local health protection teams work alongside the NHS, local authorities and emergency services providing specialist support in communicable disease, infection control and emergency planning

13. If you have reason to believe that any child is suffering from a notifiable disease identified as such in the public health (infectious diseases) regulations 1988, the nursery manager or senior colleague should act on any advice given by the Public Health England (PHE) and tell Ofsted about any action taken.

14. To find a list of notifiable diseases go to the Health Protection Services for your region <https://www.gov.uk> and search for notifiable diseases.

15. Food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises is a notifiable infectious disease in the UK.

16. The Notifiable Diseases Notification Form must be completed when contact has been made with the relevant agencies and a copy of all information sent to PHE, Ofsted and the LSCB if applicable. Please file the Notifiable Diseases Notification Form on the child's individual file.

Ofsted

17. Nursery Managers must notify Ofsted of any food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises. Notification must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident. Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence.

RIDDOR

18. The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) have a specific definition of a "dangerous occurrence". You can seek advice from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on line at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/what-must-i-report.htm>

This policy will be reviewed annually.