



Poorly Children Policy

Introduction

Houghton and Wyton Pre-school is committed to maintaining a healthy environment for all children, staff, and families. We aim to prevent the spread of infection and to respond swiftly and appropriately when a child becomes unwell while in our care. This policy outlines our approach to illness management, in line with **EYFS 2023**, **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)** guidance, and best practice.

Aim

To protect the health of all children and adults in the setting by identifying signs of illness promptly, reducing the spread of infection, and working in partnership with families.

Objectives

We will:

- Monitor children's health and respond promptly to signs of illness
- Exclude children with contagious conditions in line with UKHSA guidelines
- Communicate clearly with parents about illness and exclusion periods
- Follow hygiene and infection control procedures to prevent the spread of illness

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Manager/Deputy:** Ensures staff follow illness and exclusion procedures; communicates with families and external agencies
- **Staff:** Monitor children's well-being, record and report symptoms, and follow hygiene and PPE procedures
- **Parents/Carers:** Inform the setting of illness or symptoms and follow exclusion guidance

Implementation Procedures

1. Monitoring and Identifying Illness

- Staff monitor children throughout the day for signs of:
 - Fever (defined as a temperature **above 37.9°C**)
 - Vomiting, diarrhoea, pain, rashes, or lethargy
 - Unusual behaviour or signs of distress
- If a child becomes unwell, a staff member will:
 - Move the child to a quiet space with supervision
 - Take their temperature (if appropriate)
 - Inform the Manager and contact the child's parent/carer

2. Exclusion and Return to Pre-school

- Children with vomiting and/or diarrhoea must remain home for **48 hours** after the last episode. Staff experiencing vomiting, diarrhoea, or contagious illness must also follow the 48-hour exclusion policy
- Parents are advised **not to give Calpol or similar before drop-off** to mask symptoms
- Children must be well enough to participate in the full day's activities on return
- Children with contagious conditions (e.g. chickenpox, hand-foot-and-mouth) must follow UKHSA/NHS exclusion guidance See also: Health Policy for our broader approach to illness prevention, hygiene, and well-being.
- Staff will notify families of confirmed contagious illnesses via Family (without naming individuals) Illness updates and return guidance may also be shared with families through Family.



3. Severe or Emergency Symptoms

- If a child has difficulty breathing, becomes unresponsive, or deteriorates quickly:
 - A qualified first aider remains with the child
 - The Manager contacts emergency services and the child's parent/carer
 - Emergency procedures and medical records are shared with paramedics

4. Outbreaks and Notifications

- If two or more children/staff are affected by the same illness within a short period of time - This meets the UKHSA definition of an outbreak and triggers additional infection control procedures.
 - The Manager will notify UKHSA and follow local public health advice
 - Deep cleaning and additional infection control procedures will be implemented

5. HIV, Hepatitis, and Other Blood-Borne Illnesses

- Children with HIV or hepatitis are not excluded unless unwell
- Universal hygiene procedures are followed for all children and adults:
 - Use of disposable gloves and aprons
 - Proper disposal of contaminated items
 - Immediate cleaning of bodily fluid spills
- Staff and children with open wounds must keep them covered

6. Head Lice and Non-Exclusion Conditions

- If head lice are identified:
 - Parents are informed confidentially and asked to treat before return
 - Whole-group notices may be sent if multiple cases arise (no names used)
- Children are **not excluded** for head lice or nits unless severe irritation or risk of spread exists

7. Confidentiality and Record Keeping

- Records of illness, symptoms, and parent communication are kept securely
- All personal information is managed in line with the **Data Protection Act 2018** and **UK GDPR**
- Reports to UKHSA or external agencies are anonymised where possible

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Manager and Board of Trustees, or sooner if health guidance or practice changes significantly.

Legislation and Guidance

- Statutory Framework for the EYFS (2023)
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Guidance: Infection Control in Schools and Childcare Settings
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR

Acknowledgment

All staff, parents, and carers must read and understand this policy. By doing so, they help maintain a safe and healthy setting for all children.