

Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.47, 3.48

At Watoto Pre-School we promote the good health of all children attending including oral health by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at preschool with their peers.
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals, and drinks
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes (see infection control policy)
- Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and having good ventilation inside
- Sharing information with parents about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases
- Sharing information from the Department of Health that all children aged 6 months – 5 years should take a daily vitamin.
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required and sharing information about the importance of sleep and how many hours young children should be having.

Our procedures

To take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

If a child becomes ill during the preschool day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person (wearing PPE), wherever possible

We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g., sickness and diarrhoea, measles, and chicken pox, to protect other children and staff in the preschool. Refer to the table 'Should I keep my child of preschool' at the end of this policy.

We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the preschool, 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 notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.

We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the preschool day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics

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

We make information/posters about head lice readily available, and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the preschool so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the preschool that their child has meningitis, the preschool manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the preschool, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

COVID

We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment.

The preschool manager/staff member must:

Inform a member of the management team immediately

Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle

Follow the instructions from the 999-call handler

Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital

Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment 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 registration forms, 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 will be reviewed at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a significant incident,

e.g., serious illness/hospital visit required.

This policy was adopted on Signed on behalf of the preschool Date for review

May 2022

August 2023

Infections that can be spread to other people.

Should I take my child to Preschool??

YES	UNTIL:
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scarlet Fever	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Hand, foot and mouth	at least 5 days from the onset of the infection
Head lice	there are no signs of head lice
Threadworms	No longer infected
Glandular fever	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend
Tonsillitis <i>(note: Tonsillitis is not contagious, but most of the infections that cause it are, for example, colds and flu.</i>	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend
Slapped cheek	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend