



## **Infection & illness policy**

On occasions due to ill health and following Infection and Prevention Control in Childcare Setting, there may be instances when we ask that a child be excluded from Nursery, both for the child's wellbeing and the wellbeing of other children and staff. Clyde Nursery Ltd aims to operate a consistent and sensitive approach to exclusion from Nursery as a result of infections and illness and follows NHS and Health Protection Scotland criteria.

We request that children do not attend Nursery if suffering from a high temperature of over 37.5°C and any of the following infectious diseases:

- Impetigo
- Sickness and/or diarrhoea
- German measles
- Whooping cough
- Mumps
- Measles
- Chickenpox
- Or any other infectious/contagious disorder

We have a 48-hour exclusion period for sickness and diarrhoea due to an infection. Children who have been sick several times or have had more than two bouts of diarrhoea over a period of time should not attend Nursery in line with the attached guidelines. The 48-hour exclusion period should begin from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. The 48-hour exclusion period will not apply to children who have been sick for reasons other than infection. If staff are unsure, they should discuss this with the Nursery Manager or a senior member of staff.

Return to Nursery following other infections and illness should be on medical advice. The 48-hour exclusion period for sickness and diarrhoea also applies to staff.

The above list is not exclusive and if there is existence of doubt, the Nursery Manager will contact the local Health Protection Team regarding advice on infectious diseases and the appropriate action to be taken.

If a child will not be attending Nursery due to sickness, the parents/carers must notify the Nursery as soon as possible in order that precautions can be taken to prevent cross infection.

In certain cases, we advise that children should be 24 hours free from paracetamol before returning to nursery.

If a parent/carer informs the Nursery that their child has meningitis, the Nursery Manager/Director will be advised who will contact the local Health Protection Team (NHS Highland).

If an outbreak of a serious illness occurs of 2 or more children, the Care Inspectorate will be informed by the Company Director. A record of outbreaks of illnesses will be kept in the Manager's Office at the Nursery.

If a child becomes unwell whilst at Nursery, the most Senior Staff Member will contact the parent/carer to inform them. Nursery staff will make sure the child receives appropriate care and attention, ensuring the child is comfortable and that the risk of cross infection is minimised. It is the parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure their child is picked up from Nursery as soon as possible.

If a child is prescribed medication, parents/carers must inform the child's 'Key Person'/Team Leader. Parents/carers are requested to complete a medication form, which includes details of times, dosage, and the name of the medication.

In order to prevent cross contamination and the spread of any infections staff must ensure the following:

- Children use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch all germs.
- Tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once tissues have been disposed of.
- Children are reminded to wash their hands after visiting the toilet or being in contact with animals and are encouraged to understand that this will help them stay healthy.
- Gloves and white aprons are to be worn when changing nappies and dealing with toilet 'accidents'.
- Any 'accidents' will be cleaned up immediately covered with blue roll, then the appropriate mops, cleaners and disinfectants will be used.
- Gloves must be worn when cleaning any equipment.
- All Nappy Bins must be emptied and relined at lunchtime and last thing at night or whenever the bin is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full. When emptying nappy bins, protective clothing must be worn, and the nappy bags provided by PHS must be tied and taken straight to the yellow clinical waste wheelie bin outside the Nursery.
- All soiled clothing will be sealed securely in double disposable bags and stored in a designated soiled clothes box until laundering or being removed from Nursery premises.
- If a child becomes unwell during the Nursery Day, they will be taken to a quiet area away from others. Staff will care for and closely monitor the child whilst waiting for the parent/carer to collect.
- Each child will have their own sheet and blanket for sleep purposes which will be hygienically stored and laundered frequently to prevent cross infection.

- Freshly laundered face cloth will be used for face cleaning.
- The Nursery stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, sterilising fluid and anti-bacterial gel are maintained at all times.

Head Lice infestation is a problem of the wider community. The role of childcare providers is giving parents information and support. Head Lice will not be eradicated in the foreseeable future, but a sensible, informed approach based on facts will help to limit the problem. Within a setting where there are a number of children together, at any one time, it is likely that there will be a few children with an active head lice infestation.

If you suspect that a child has head lice:

- The staff member should report the concern to their Team Leader, who will in turn inform the Nursery Manager. All staff should keep individual reports confidential.
- The Nursery Manager should contact the parents individually and privately. Alert letters should not be sent out as this may lead parents to believe there is an ‘outbreak’ where in fact head lice may only be affecting one child or a small group of children.
- Children who have or thought to have Head Lice should be collected by parents and returned to Nursery after treatment.
- Good practice would suggest that all members of the family should be checked at the same time and where appropriate treated.

Children who have, or are thought to have head lice, should NOT be excluded from our childcare provision, however staff should work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure effective treatment takes place. Staff should be prepared to offer parent’s information, including instructions on detection, the avoidance of unnecessary or inappropriate treatments, and the thorough and adequate treatment of definitely confirmed infections and their contacts using either insecticidal lotion, dimeticone 4% or the ‘bug busting’ technique of wet combing. The infestation can take two weeks to be completely removed.

If the parents have any further concerns, you should advise them to seek professional advice from a Health Visitor, GP, or Pharmacist.

Contact Number for our Health Protection Team:	01463 704886
Contact Number for our Environmental Health Officer:	01546 605519
Contact Number for our Care Inspectorate:	0345 600 9527

All our staff are committed to preventing and controlling infection and have read the guidance ‘Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day care and childminding settings)’ May 2018

A copy of this policy is available to view in the Policy Folders held in the Nursery Office and Nursery Playrooms.

Reviewed: January 2026

Date of next review: January 2027