

## **CHARNWOOD TRUST CHILDREN SICKNESS AND ILLNESS POLICY**

This policy is about children's attendance at nursery when they are unwell. As a general principle, children should not be in nursery when they are ill, both for their own welfare and also to be fair to other children and protect them from becoming ill. In specific situations the appropriateness of attending nursery or not will need to be determined on a case by case basis. Ultimately, the nursery has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell: this decision will be taken by Senior Management.

### **Policy**

Charnwood Trust aims to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment for all children attending the nursery, and to avoid the spread of illness. We will always follow the advice given to us by our registering authority, and by Public Health England and HPA, and children with specific contagious conditions, (e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, conjunctivitis and chicken pox) will have to stay away from nursery to protect the other children.

- If a child becomes ill during the day, their parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with a member of staff.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an eye/ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 24 hours.
- If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, all parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness in their own child. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilized thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, (which requires socializing with other children and being part of a group setting), when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is that children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course should not attend nursery.
- Information about treating head lice is readily available and all parents are requested to check their children's hair regularly. Children with head lice do not need to stay away from nursery. If a parent finds that their child has head lice, we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

### **Transporting children to hospital.**

- If a child has a serious accident or becomes severely unwell at nursery, they will be attended to by a member of staff with a Paediatric First Aid qualification, and an ambulance will be called.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, the parent(s) will be contacted and arrangements will be made to meet them at the hospital (or at nursery if this is more appropriate).
- A senior member of staff will accompany the child taking relevant medical information, medication, and anything else deemed necessary, until parents are present.
- Children who witness an accident may well be affected by it need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff not involved with the sick or injured child will move children to areas away from the emergency, reassure children and keep the routines as normal as possible.