



ILLNESS POLICY

Our Mission

Curious Explorers Ltd day nursery is a place where all children can play, have fun and be cared for in a clean and healthy environment. In order to provide this, Curious Explorers Ltd day nursery need to ensure that all children are well when attending nursery, which is also a requirement of registration and regulator OFSTED.

As a proactive strategy, Curious Explorers Ltd daily cleans and sterilizes toys to minimize cross contamination of any contagious illness/infection as much as possible. We employ a cleaner that cleans the Nursery on a daily basis and expect a high standard of hygiene maintained by all staff.

The nursery is unable to cater for a child who is unwell; therefore, a child who is obviously ill should not be brought to nursery. If you have any doubts about this, please contact the nursery beforehand to seek advice.

If a child appears to become unwell during the day, a parent will be contacted and advised, and depending on the symptoms may be asked to collect them from the nursery. This is at the nursery's discretion.

A child should not be brought to nursery if he/she has sickness and/or diarrhea. There should be at least **48 hours** with no symptoms before returning to nursery. This is according to the Department of Health guidelines. To reduce the risk of outbreaks of the Noro Virus, the Environmental Health Officers guidance is that any vomit or diarrhoea should be cleared in the following manner: -

- clear the area and ventilate the room
- clear with paper towel, bag and dispose in the yellow bin outside
- wash the area with hot soapy water, bag and dispose of the cloth in the yellow bin outside
- steam clean the area
- spray the area with a Milton solution (not sanitizer)
- allow the area to air for 2 hours if possible

A child should not be brought to nursery if he/she has a contagious illness, e.g. Chicken Pox, German measles, etc. If in doubt, please seek the nursery's advice before bringing your child in. They should refrain from attending whilst they are infectious. Please seek advice from your GP or the nursery if you are unsure. Emails are sent to inform parents when we have a reported case in nursery.

For more information on whether your child should be brought into Nursery when they are ill, please see below:

This is NHS guidance, and the Nursery has adopted these guidelines to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all children in our Nursery.



<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Cold sores

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore. Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a fever or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their fever goes away.

Fever

If your child has a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes away.

Hand, foot and mouth disease

If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. *If your child has head lice, the nursery will discreetly inform the parents and support the parent with ways of eradicating the lice and eggs. We ask all parents to support the nursery by being vigilant and checking your child's hair on a weekly basis, by wet combing. Combs are available from the local chemist.*

Impetigo

If your child has impetigo, they'll need antibiotic treatment from the GP. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share towels, cups and



so on with other children at school.

Ringworm

If your child has **ringworm**, see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see the GP.

It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

If your child has **scarlet fever**, they'll need treatment with antibiotics from the GP.

Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease)

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have **slapped cheek syndrome** because once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

If you suspect your child has **slapped cheek syndrome**, take them to the GP and let their school know if they're diagnosed with it.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a **sore throat**. But if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until it goes away.

Threadworms

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have **threadworms**.

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Children with **diarrhoea** or **vomiting** should stay away from school for 2 days after their symptoms have gone.

If your child should develop a suspicious rash or weepy eyes, you will be contacted and asked to collect them and have them checked over by a doctor or pharmacist.

Our staff policy on illness explains that it is staff responsibility to ensure any person known or suspected of suffering from, or to be a carrier of, food borne disease or infection, including vomiting, diarrhoea, skin infections, sores or open wounds is excluded from working in any food handling areas until they have well within themselves to return to work. Should this apply to any member of your family who has been in contact with your child, we ask that you advise a member of staff.

We take these precautions to reduce the risk of infection spreading, which is also a requirement of our registration with OFSTED.

Please adhere to this policy for the sake of all the children and their families and those involved in their care.

