

## **Communicable Diseases, Exclusion Periods & Immunisation**

### **Infection control**

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses.

To prevent viruses and infections from easily spreading around the nursery environment, we maintain high hygiene standards. To do this we follow the guidance below:

- Encourage children and team members to use tissues when coughing and sneezing.
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and team members wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of.
- Team members will use hand washing facilities and will wear the appropriate protective equipment when preparing, handling and serving food in line with current hygiene requirements.
- Team members will wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with other bodily fluids. Team members are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash their hands immediately.
- All potties and changing mats are cleaned and sterilised before and after each use. Each changing mat is thoroughly cleaned at the end of each week.
- Toilets are cleaned at least daily.
- Team members remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this as per the EYFS.
- All equipment and resources will be cleaned on a regular basis, following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine. If any equipment or resources need to be cleaned earlier than stated on the cleaning rota, this will be done as and when needed.
- Parents/carers who bring a dummy for their child to use as a comfort will be encouraged to provide a small labelled box for storage.



- If a dummy or bottle falls on the floor or is picked up by another child, this is cleaned immediately and sterilised where necessary. All nursery bottles and dummies will be cleaned and then sterilised after each use. These will be stored in a clean box to prevent cross contamination.
- All bedding is laundered after each use with non-biological soap powder.
- The Nursery Manager retains the right to decline admission of all children, parents/carers, team members and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of our children and team members.
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure that the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises.
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. Team members have responsibility to ensure they accurately record stock levels.
- All team members consistently adhere to high personal hygiene standards.

### **Exclusion periods**

For the health and wellbeing of our children and team it will sometimes be necessary to exclude a child or team member from nursery for the duration of an illness or recovery period to prevent infection to others and in due regard for the wellbeing of the individual afflicted with the illness.

As a nursery we would always refer to NHS England and the Department for Public Health regarding incubation and exclusion periods.

However, Sweet Peas nursery has a duty of care to the children registered with us and our team members and it remains a statutory requirement in the Early Years Foundation Stage that "the provider must...take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill". Therefore, it will ultimately remain the decision of the Nursery Manager as to whether an exclusion period needs to be reviewed and enforced. In making this decision the overall wellbeing of the nursery will also be considered and the impact of any highly infectious virus / disease.

Below is a list, which is not exhaustive, of the more common instances and exclusion periods for a child or team member:



- Diarrhoea and/or vomiting  
The exclusion period ends 48 hours after the last episode of illness.
- E. coli / Typhoid\* / Shigella (dysentery)  
Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea. Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting. Further exclusion is required for children aged five years or younger and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices. Children in these categories should be excluded until there is evidence of microbiological clearance.
- Flu (influenza)  
Until recovered.
- Tuberculosis\*  
Should be excluded until declared free from infection by their GP.
- Whooping cough\* (pertussis)  
Five days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.
- Chickenpox  
Until all vesicles have crusted over. Some consideration will be given to vesicles that are in the nappy area as we appreciate these take longer to heal.
- German measles (rubella)\*  
Five days from onset of rash if the child/team member is well enough to attend.
- Hand, foot and mouth  
Hand, Foot and Mouth is contagious until all vesicles have crusted over. Although some children do not display any other symptoms, such as being unwell, it is known to cause discomfort. It is for this reason that we expect a child or team member to not return to setting until their general wellbeing has improved and the vesicles are empty of fluid.
- Impetigo  
Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
- Measles\*  
Five days from onset of rash if the child/team member is well enough to attend.

- Ringworm  
Children and team members can return to setting once treatment has begun.
- Scabies  
Children and team members can return once treatment of everyone in the household and close contacts has begun.
- Scarlet fever\*  
Children and team members can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment if feeling well.
- Slapped cheek/fifth disease (Parvovirus B19)  
None (once rash has developed).
- Shingles  
Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.
- Conjunctivitis (both viral or bacterial)  
Once the child/team member is showing no further symptoms.
- Diphtheria\*  
Exclusion is essential until cleared by GP. Family contacts must be excluded until cleared by GP also.
- Head lice  
We hope that parents/carers and team members will work with us to treat and prevent the spread of head lice. If parents/carers find their children have head lice we ask that they inform us immediately so we can advise all our parents/carers and team members and advise treatment. We request that treatment of head lice begins immediately and any children and team members with long hair will have this tidied up. We recommend that given the nature of our setting that team members and children regularly check their hair to aid early detection. If team members observe head lice in a child's hair during the day the parent / carer will be contacted in a sensitive manner and provided with guidance on the treatments available. This will be kept confidential within nursery.
- Hepatitis A\*  
Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice).
- Meningococcal bacterial/viral meningitis\* and septicaemia\*

Until fully recovered and no further symptoms.

- Mumps\*  
Exclude child for a minimum of five days after onset of swelling. Children and team members are then welcome to return if well enough.
- HIV/AIDS  
Sweet Peas Nursery enforce strict hygiene procedures when dealing with accidents resulting in bleeding, vomiting or in the cases of diarrhoea and changing nappies.

Sweet Peas will not always know if another person is HIV positive or has aids. If we do have this information it will not be shared with anyone unless prior permission has been received from the person concerned. Any failure by an employee to keep this information confidential, without consent, may result in dismissal on the ground of gross misconduct and will always result in disciplinary proceedings.

**\* denotes a notifiable disease.**

It is requested that team members and parents/carers share with the setting if they, their child or anyone in close contact is suffering with any of the above.

### **Immunisations**

Sweet Peas Nursery does not discriminate on the admission of a child who has/has not had their immunisations. We firmly believe that it is parental choice as to whether children have their immunisations, and we will not refuse admission of that child.

The Nursery Manager must be aware of any children who are not vaccinated within the nursery in accordance with their age. This is to prioritise the communication of infectious diseases.

Information regarding immunisations will be recorded on children's registration documents and should be updated as and when necessary, including when the child reaches the age for the appropriate immunisations.

### **Team members vaccinations policy**

We recommend that team members have all available vaccinations to aid in protecting their own health and wellbeing.