

Infection Control and Sick Child Policy

This document is produced for staff working with the children at Pixies and is a point of reference for families and others visiting the setting. Within this document 'staff' refers to all persons directly involved in the care of children at this setting, irrespective of their employment status, and includes students, trainees, and volunteers.

Aims

The setting is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, staff, and visitors. The aim of the policy is to ensure that all employees, children, and their families understand the importance of their health and how to protect others.

At Pixies our aim is to enable children to access the curriculum, in order to do so their health and well-being should be maintained at all times.

To help prevent the spread of infections the 'Health Protection Agency' states that it is important for all children, staff, and visitors that we ensure that:

- routine immunisations are up to date,
- high standards of personal hygiene and practice, particularly hand washing, and maintaining a clean environment is promoted always.

Good Hygiene Practice

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections. The recommended method is the use of antibacterial liquid soap, warm water, and paper towels. Wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and after handling animals.

Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue and to dispose of tissues in the appropriate bin. Also, to wash hands, or use anti-bac gel after using or disposing of tissues.

Cleaning of the environment, including toys and equipment should be frequent, thorough, and follow guidance controls, ie; use colour coded equipment. Follow guidance for good hygiene practice when using nappy changing facilities.

Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages. All spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal, and eye discharges should be cleaned up immediately. When spillages occur, clean using a product, that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant. NEVER USE mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages use disposable paper towels and discard waste appropriately, so as not to cause cross infection.

Personal protective clothing. Disposable non-powdered gloves and disposable aprons must be worn where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids.

Vulnerable children. Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children; these include conditions that seriously reduce immunity. It may be advisable for these children to have additional immunisations. Staff should implement and follow any health plan in place for children where there are additional risks to health.

Bedding should be clearly labelled and stored in separate bags to prevent cross contamination between children when sleeping. All bedding should be routinely washed and returned to the appropriate bag.

Soft toys, cushions and materials should be routinely washed, with additional cleaning when appropriate. Any item that has been seriously contaminated by blood/body fluids should be destroyed if determined to be the more appropriate course of action.

Sickness

Any child suffering from a doubtful rash, sore throat, discharge from the eyes or nose, or any other infectious disease should be kept at home in line with the guidance from the Health Protection Agency (see chart). A child suffering from any form of sickness or diarrhoea will be excluded from the setting for 48 hours from the last episode, as advised by the Health Protection Agency. Other illnesses may require a longer quarantine period as advised by the health protection agency or at the discretion of the management, of which parents will be advised when informing the setting. Should a child become sick at Pixies, every effort will be made to contact the parents who will be expected to collect their child. All parents/carers are required to indicate where they can be contacted during the hours their child is with Pixies. Pixies reserve the right to remove a child to hospital in an emergency. Any sickness will be recorded on a sickness report and will include symptoms and action taken.

Meningitis watch

Meningitis symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, and stiff neck.

There are often other symptoms, such as

- Headache with nausea or vomiting
- Decreased appetite
- Confusion or difficulty concentrating
- Sudden fever
- Severe Headache that seems different than normal
- Seizures
- Sensitivity to light
- Sleepiness
- Lethargy
- Skin rash

You may be required to do the tumbler test

If you are worried the child may have meningitis or septicaemia, get medical help immediately

For more advice free phone 08088003344

Medication

It is our policy not to administer any medication unless it has been prescribed by a medical practitioner, such as a doctor or dentist. However, not all medication will have a written prescription and may be 'recommended' by a pharmacist or medical practitioner. Administration of 'over the counter medication' whilst at Pixies will be at the discretion of the manager.

Where the medication is an anti-biotic or to deal with infection, a child should be kept at home for the first 24 hours after the first dose has been given. Written permission must be given for the administration of the medication by the parent/guardian; this will only need to be given at the commencement of the treatment (see medication policy for further advice on medication).