

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is discussed with parents. This includes procedures for contacting parents - or other authorized adults - if a child becomes ill at nursery. We use and follow Devon's Spotty book/"Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings" recommendations for all illnesses and infections.

- Ofsted is notified of any infectious diseases which a qualified medical person considers notifiable.
- Children unwell with infectious diseases should not in general attend nursery, although mild snuffles and colds need not necessarily prevent a child attending.
- If a child appears unwell during the day — have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach — the manager or key person calls the parents and asks them to collect their child, or send a known carer to collect their child.
- The manager and person to make contact makes a record if this by completing a Nursery Home Confidential Record form.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- Temperature is taken using a thermometer.
- In extreme cases of emergency the child may be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to nursery; the nursery can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep their child/children at home for 48 hours or until a formed stool is passed before returning to the setting.
- Parents should notify the nursery if their child has an infectious disease.
- The nursery will notify parents if a risk to other children exists.
- A child with an infectious disease should be excluded from the setting until they are fully recovered and if the disease is listed in the table (section 8) of the Spotty Book/"Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings", until the required period has passed.

Common illnesses include:

Disease	Usual Incubation Period	Min Period of exclusion
Chickenpox	13-21 days	5 days from inset of rash
Conjunctivitis	2-3 days	Single cases: if child is well no exclusion needed
Cold/flu	1-3 days	While child is unwell
Ear infection	May be chronic	None
German Measles	14-21 days	5 days from onset on rash
Hand, Foot and Mouth	3-5 days	Until clinically well. Presence of rash does not indicate infectivity

Head and Body Lice	1 week	None. Treatment should be started on day lice is found. No need to send the child home.
Impetigo	4-10 days	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles	7-14 days	5 days from onset of rash
Mumps	12-21 days	Until swelling has subsided, usually 5 days
Ringworm	4-10 days	None. Treatment recommended
Whooping cough	7-10 days	Until clinically recovered

Guidance will be followed through the Spotty Book/"Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings" for all other diseases.

Reporting of 'notifiable' diseases

In some cases it may be necessary to contact the Health Protection Agency for further guidance and advice. For example if a child or adult is diagnosed with suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health Regulations 1988, the setting would follow guidance from the Health Protection Agency and parents may be notified.

When the setting becomes aware or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the setting would inform Ofsted.

In the event of infectious diseases such as Chicken Pox or German Measles, signs would be clearly displayed in the setting to inform parents/carers/visitors of the possible risk.