

Preschool & Kids Club Policy for Childhood Illnesses

Statement of Intent

At Willow Childcare, we are committed to promoting the health and well-being of all children in our care. We take proactive measures to prevent the spread of illness and infection and ensure that any child who becomes unwell at nursery is treated with sensitivity, dignity, and care.

Purpose

This policy outlines procedures for managing illness in children attending the nursery and aims to:

- Prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
 - Ensure a safe and healthy environment for children, staff, and families.
 - Establish clear communication expectations with parents/carers.
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General Guidelines

- If a child becomes unwell while in our care, they will be monitored and made comfortable until collected.
 - Parents/carers must not bring children into the nursery if they are unwell, especially if they have been given **Calpol** or similar medication before arrival, as it may mask symptoms of contagious illness.
 - If a child requires medication, see the **Administration of Medication Policy**.
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Admission Restrictions

Our staff are **not permitted** to admit any child who appears to be suffering from an infectious or contagious illness.

While we follow UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance, we reserve the right to refuse admission if a child's condition could impact the well-being of others.

Parent / Carer Responsibilities

- Provide up-to-date emergency contact details
- Inform us of any illness, absences, or changes to your child's health.
- Keep children at home for the full exclusion period when unwell (see illness chart below).

In emergencies, if the parent/carer is unreachable, we will contact the next named emergency contact.

Parents/carers must provide written permission for the nursery to act in their absence, including for hospital transport and emergency medical treatment.

Medical Emergencies

If a child becomes seriously ill or injured:

- Staff will call an ambulance.
 - Parents/carers will be contacted immediately.
 - A senior member of staff will accompany the child to hospital if needed, along with relevant medical documentation and medication.
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High Temperatures

A fever is classified as a temperature **over 38°C (100.4°F)** in children under 5.

Our Procedure:

1. We will take the child's temperature with a thermometer.
2. Record the reading and inform parents.
3. Remove excess clothing and keep the child hydrated.
4. Monitor temperature regularly.
5. If temperature remains above 38°C, parents must collect their child.
6. If required, with prior written consent, the nursery may administer Calpol in emergency situations (after medical consultation).
7. Children will not be permitted to return to the setting until they have been clear of a temperature without the need for Calpol or similar medication, for 24 hours

This aligns with UK health guidance and has now been introduced to reduce the spread of infection, protects other children and staff, and supports an unwell child's recovery.

Childhood Illness Policy

Febrile Convulsions, Anaphylaxis and Seizures

- In the event of a febrile convulsion, anaphylaxis or seizure, we will call 999 immediately.
 - Administer emergency medication (e.g., EpiPen) if prescribed and authorised.
 - Follow the same hospital transport procedure as above.
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Sickness and Diarrhoea

- Exclusion period is **48 hours after the last episode**, not from the onset.
- This applies even if symptoms are related to allergies, intolerances, or food ladders unless written medical guidance states otherwise.

For food ladders:

- Parents must notify staff **one week in advance**.
 - Any reintroduction must be approved by a GP or dietitian in writing.
 - Staff will monitor and record health and bowel movements during this period.
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Refusal of Care

We reserve the right to refuse care if we feel the child requires medical attention beyond non-prescription medication.
All admittance to the setting will be at the discretion of management and this decision will be final.