



## Ladybirds Preschool Sickness and Exclusion Illness Policy

(latest update: 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024)

*Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).*

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

**Unique Child   Positive Partnerships   Enabling Environment   Learning and Developing**

### Policy Statement

The health of the children and staff is of paramount importance to Ladybirds, and we endeavour to provide a healthy environment at our preschool. In order for us to maintain a clean and healthy environment, we ask that you refrain from sending your child into nursery if they are sick or displaying signs of illness.

#### *Aims*

- ☐ To ensure that sick children are identified.
- ☐ To ensure that sick children are cared for appropriately.
- ☐ To protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- ☐ To enable staff and parents/carers to be clear about the requirements and procedures when a child is unwell.

#### *Methods*

- ☐ Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is shared with all parents and is available on the preschool website. It is expected that parents will adhere to specific procedures and practices detailed within this document.
- ☐ We ask parents/carers to keep us informed about a child's health and would appreciate a phone call or email to let us know when your child is unwell and unable to attend preschool. This allows us to communicate this to all staff and parents, as well as Health Protection and Ofsted if it is a disease that requires notification. This is particularly important in case a child has come into contact with a pregnant staff member or parent.
- ☐ We will ensure that a sick child is treated swiftly, and with the minimum amount of stress for the child and parents.
- ☐ We will endeavour at all times to communicate effectively with parents/carers, using the contact details given when your child started preschool.
- ☐ No child may attend preschool whilst suffering from one of the communicable diseases, and they should be excluded for the periods recommended (please see the guidelines below).
- ☐ If a child appears to be unwell as they are brought into preschool, they may be refused admission.

- ☐ If your child has not been themselves at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought to preschool, please mention it to the staff, and let them know how best to contact you throughout the day.
- ☐ If children have had Calpol (paracetamol) or other pain relief for fevers, colds, headaches and other illnesses, they must refrain from coming into pre-school for a minimum of 24 hours from the last dose and until it is no longer needed. This is not only to protect themselves, but also other children and the adults within preschool.
- ☐ Parents MUST inform staff if they have administered Calpol or other pain relief for injuries such as sprains, injured limbs, toothache etc.. to their child prior to preschool. This information is vital if emergency services have to be called, and it is recorded.
- ☐ Parents MUST inform staff if they have given Piriton or other anti-histamine to their child for hay fever or an allergy. This information is vital if emergency services have to be called, and it is recorded.
- ☐ If a child becomes ill at preschool, we will contact parents or other authorised adults to come and collect the child immediately, whilst waiting for the child's parents/guardian children will be moved to a separate part of the pre-school with a member of staff present with them at all times, this will be done in a kind and caring manner.
- ☐ The preschool manager/deputy manager will always be informed of any sick children.
- ☐ We understand the needs of working parents, and aim not to unnecessarily exclude any child from preschool. However, the decision of the preschool manager is final when requesting the exclusion of a child for illness of infection.
- ☐ Whilst waiting for a sick child to be collected, staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary. If the child is in danger, the staff will seek medical advice immediately.
- ☐ We do not provide day care for any children who are unwell, have a temperature, or sickness and diarrhoea, or who have an infectious disease.
- ☐ If your child develops a temperature whilst at preschool, parents will be contacted and asked to collect the child immediately.
- ☐ Children's nappies will be individually monitored, and if there is obvious diarrhoea the child will be sent home.
- ☐ Good hygiene practice concerning the cleaning of any spilled bodily fluids is carried out at all times.
- ☐ Children who are unwell should not attend the preschool.
- ☐ If it is suspected that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, parents/carers will be requested to consult a doctor before returning the child to preschool.
- ☐ We have a 48-hour rule for sickness and diarrhoea, which means that children and staff cannot return to the preschool until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea (this applies even if the child has had one bout of either sickness and/or diarrhoea regardless of having or not any temperature). The preschool staff have the right to refuse entry to any child who has had a recent bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea until after the 48-hour exclusion period.

- ☐ If your child has had a temperature during the evening/night, they should not be brought in the next day.
- ☐ Coughs and colds do not normally require the child to be excluded from preschool, but this depends on the severity of the illness and how the child is able to cope with the preschool day.
- ☐ Children who are on antibiotics cannot attend preschool for the first 48 hours of starting them. Children on long term medication will be assessed on an individual basis, please refer to our managing medicines policy.
- ☐ Children with head-lice are not excluded, but must be treated to remedy the condition.
- ☐ If there is an outbreak of an illness in preschool then the preschool manager will consult with the local Health Protection Unit for advice. We may decide to exclude children in order to control an outbreak, even where this is not listed below in the exclusion chart.
- ☐ Parents must inform the preschool if any child attending the preschool is admitted to hospital, and the hospital discharge instructions must be followed prior to the child returning to preschool.
- ☐ A child should not return to preschool for a full 48 hours after a hospital admission and only if they are well enough.
- ☐ A child should not return to preschool for a full 48 hours after an anaesthetic or antibiotics have been given.
- ☐ Following any immunisation, children's health must be assessed before sending them into preschool. Children should be observed for any signs of an allergic reaction or high temperature, as these can develop after the injection. Parents must inform us of all immunisations. If you choose to send your child in and they become unwell we will call for you to collect your child. Please also inform us if you have administered any pain relief medication.
- ☐ All parents are notified if there is a case of any infectious disease at preschool.
- ☐ Ofsted is always notified of any outbreak of infectious/communicable disease.

Hand washing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory disease. The recommended method is the use of liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals. Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings. Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Teaching children to regular wash hand is very important Children and adults should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue. Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues. Spitting should be discouraged.

***The chart below sets out the exclusion periods from nursery for children who are ill, including if they are infectious. Ladybirds Preschool takes into consideration guidance from the Health Protection Agency with regards to exclusion periods for illnesses and infection control, as well as the needs of the children and staff.***

| <b>Illness/Infection</b>                                                | <b>Exclusion Period for Children</b>                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chicken Pox/Shingles                                                    | 5 days from onset of rash as long as spots are completely crusted over                                                                                                                  |
| Cold Sores (Herpes simplex)                                             | No exclusion necessary                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Conjunctivitis                                                          | If a case is suspected parents will be asked to take their child to be seen by a doctor/Pharmacist. Return 24 hours after drops have been administered providing there is no discharge. |
| Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting including Rotavirus/Norovirus/Gastroenteritis | 48 hours from the last episode                                                                                                                                                          |
| Flu (Influenza)                                                         | Until recovered fully enough to participate in nursery activities                                                                                                                       |
| German Measles (Rubella)*                                               | 6 days from onset of rash                                                                                                                                                               |
| Glandular Fever                                                         | None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities                                                                                                                  |
| Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease                                            | Exclusion for one week after symptoms begin. Return only if child is well. (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion after consultation with the HPA)                         |
| Head lice                                                               | None, but treatment must be used immediately to remedy the condition                                                                                                                    |
| Impetigo                                                                | Exclusion until lesions are crusted or healed                                                                                                                                           |
| Measles*                                                                | 5 days from onset of rash                                                                                                                                                               |
| Meningitis*                                                             | Until recovered (We will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit)                                                                                                   |
| Mumps*                                                                  | 5 days after onset of swollen glands                                                                                                                                                    |
| Ringworm                                                                | Until treatment has commenced                                                                                                                                                           |
| Scabies                                                                 | Until treatment has commenced                                                                                                                                                           |
| Scarlet Fever/Scarletina*                                               | 5 days after commencing antibiotics                                                                                                                                                     |
| Slapped cheek/Fifth Disease/Parovirus                                   | Return once rash has developed. Must be well enough to participate in nursery activities                                                                                                |
| Threadworm                                                              | Until treatment has commenced                                                                                                                                                           |
| E. Coli                                                                 | 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                              |
| Molluscum Cotagiosum                                                    | None                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Whooping Cough *                                                        | Five days from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment                                                                               |
| Hepatitis A *                                                           | Exclude until seven days after onset of jaundice (or seven days after symptom onset if no jaundice)                                                                                     |

\* Denotes diseases which must be reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA), and OFSTED

Please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions.

Parents should always seek advice from their GP or Accident and Emergency Department regarding the specific symptoms of their child.

NHS Direct 0845 4647 [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

## Other Related Policies & Procedures

*The following policies provide additional information regarding the safeguarding and welfare of the children in our care:*

- *Administration of Medicines Policy*
- *Children's Records Policy*
- *Children's Rights & Entitlement Policy*
- *Confidentiality & Client Access Policy*
- *Employment & Staffing Policy*
- *First Aid Policy*
- *Health & Safety Policy*
- *Infection Control Policy*
- *Information Sharing Policy*
- *Key Person & Settling in Policy*
- *Managing Children & Staff with Allergies Policy*
- *Medicine Audit*
- *Nappy Changing Policy*
- *Outings & Visits Policy*
- *Parent Involvement Policy*
- *Physical Contact & Handling Policy*
- *Provider Records Policy*
- *Recording & Reporting of Accidents & Incidents Policy*
- *Risk Assessment Policy*
- *Safeguarding Policy*
- *Special Education Needs & Inclusion Policy*
- *Staffing & Volunteers Policy*
- *Student Placement Policy*
- *Toileting Policy*
- *Transfer of Records Policy*
- *Usage, Storage & Retention Policy*
- *Vaccination Policy*
- *Working in Partnership Policy*
- *Working from Home*

*This policy will be monitored and evaluated at committee meetings. It will be reviewed annually and unless new legislation or an incident occurs which requires an immediate review of this policy*

**Dec 2024**

**Review Date: Dec 2025**

**This Notice was adopted by the committee on 01/12/2024**

**Signed: *Jean de Paris***

**Reviewed Date: 01/12/2025**

**Signature: *N L Mann-Rae***

**Amendments: N/A**

**Reviewed Date: 16/06/2026**

**Signature: *N L Mann-Rae***

**Amendments: Calpol Clause**