

# Summertown Montessori Nursery

## Policy for Illness

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### Main Points:

- Summertown Montessori Nursery should be informed by the parents of any illness contracted by the children before they return to the nursery. This can be by phone call or email. We should also be informed if there has been a visit to the hospital, what the diagnosis was, and the treatment proposed by the doctor.
  - In case of the children receiving medication before attending nursery, parents must tell the nursery staff what medication was administered and the doses.
  - At no time do we accept sick children in our setting
  - If an infectious/communicable disease (see appendix) is detected at the setting, the child must be collected within 60 minutes by parents/carers.
  - If appropriate, RIDDOR, Ofsted and the local Health authorities will be informed on detection of a listed infectious or communicable disease.
  - The excluded child will be readmitted after a period of time dependent on the illness. (see NHS HPECS for contagious illnesses guidance below)
  - Good hygiene is practised at all times to minimise the spread of infections
  - The nursery administers prescription medication under certain guidelines
  - Most staff are trained first aiders and the on-site First Aid box is regularly checked
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## **Clarifications:**

**Sick Children:** sick children expose other children, as well as the staff and their families to the spread of illness and require additional care and attention that we are unable to give. More importantly sick children want care from their parents in the comfort of their own homes: If other children become ill due to exposure to your sick child, either because he/she was returned to our setting before full recovery or because he/she was not picked up promptly upon notice of becoming ill or staff or their families become ill due to exposure to a sick child, all of the children in our care may need to find alternative care causing other parents unnecessarily inconvenience. Your co-operation on this issue is extremely important. Every effort is taken to reduce the spread of illness by encouraging hand washing and other sanitary practices.

If your child is unable to participate in the normal activities, ~~then~~ your child MUST stay home. In the event a child becoming ill and needs to be picked up, the parent(s) will be called and are expected to come pick the child up within one hour (60 minutes). If the parent(s) cannot be reached, or have not arrived within an hour, the emergency contact person may be called and asked to pick the child up.

For the benefit of other children in our care, all staff and their respective families, a sick child will not be permitted to return to the nursery at least for 24 hours after condition has returned to normal. The child may return 24 - 48 hours (depending upon the illness) after they have received the first dose of an antibiotic.

If you aren't sure about whether or not to bring your child, please call us to discuss it, or ask for further information. Allergy related symptoms, and non-communicable illnesses do not require exclusion. We have a list of illnesses which we refer to for guidance on exclusion.

If your child is suffering from a **Notifiable Disease** as identified by the Department of Health as Infection Diseases (see attached Guidance from the Health Protection Agency – April 2010), Ofsted will be informed, and we will act on any advice they give. Where relevant for both children and staff, we will inform RIDDOR.

**1. Administering Medication:** Parents must provide any medications needed for the child whilst they are in our care. We can only administer prescription medicine in the original container with written authorisation.

Please note; we will not administer any medication that your child has not previously taken. This is in case of allergic reactions. If your child requires medication on a regular basis e.g. asthma inhaler, please make sure that it is in your child's bag at all times and that we have written instructions on when to administer to your child.

**2. Head lice:** When a case of head lice is discovered at the setting, the situation will be handled sensitively. The child concerned will not be isolated from other children, and there is no need for them to be excluded from activities or sessions. When the child concerned is collected, their parent/carer will be informed in a sensitive manner. The parent/carer will be informed as quickly as possible of the head lice but the child

concerned will not be mentioned. Parents will be given advice and guidance on treating head lice. All nursery staff should check themselves regularly for lice and treat whenever necessary.

### 3. NHS HPECS guidance: Exclusion table

Please, if any further information is needed please, check the GOV website in the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>

INFECTION	EXCLUSION PERIOD	COMMENTS
CHICKENPOX	At least 5 days from onset of rash and until blisters have crushed over	This infection can put pregnant staff in risk
CONJUNCTIVITIS	None (it is recommended to not bring the children to nursery until both eyes are clear from mucus)	This is considered infectious if there is mucus coming out.
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS INCLUDING COVID-19	Children should not attend nursery if they have temperature or feeling unwell. Children with a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend to nursery for 3 days after getting the positive result.	Children with mild symptoms such as runny nose who are otherwise well can continue to attend.
DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING	Children can return 48 hours after diarrhea and vomiting has stopped.	
FLU	Until fully recovered.	Children can get the flu vaccination to avoid this virus. Please, contact GP.
HAND FOOT AND MOUTH	If the child does not develop a temperature there is no mandatory exclusion period.	It is recommended to stay at home for 5 days after the blisters appear.
IMPETIGO	Until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.	Antibiotics treatments speeds healing and reduce the infectious period.
MEASLES	4 days from onset of rash and well enough.	Preventable by vaccination
SCARLET FEVER	Excluded until 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.	If the child does not take the treatment should be excluded until resolution of symptoms
TONSILLITIS	None unless it produces fever	
WHOOPING COUGH	2 days from antibiotics	Preventable by vaccination

#### 4. Hygiene Practices:

**Handwashing** – Staff encourage children to wash hands after using the toilet, before eating and handling food and after handling animals.

**Coughing and Sneezing** - Staff encourage children to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue, and to wash their hands after using the tissue, or to use hand gel..

**Nappies and Soiled Laundry** - we have few children still in nappies. Used nappies are bagged up, and placed in disposal bin. Soiled clothing is bagged up and handed to parent/carer on child collection. Dirty or soiled linen is bagged and outsourced for washing.

**Cleaning of blood and bodily fluids** – Staff must wear protective plastic aprons and gloves when cleaning up spillages. A detergent and disinfectant with paper towels is used in the cleaning up action.

**General cleaning** - staff clean all furniture and play areas daily. Staff wear protective plastic gloves during cleaning.

**Outbreaks:** If we suspect an outbreak of infectious disease, we will immediately inform Ofsted and the local Health authorities, and in case of COVID, invoke our Outbreak Management Plan