



### **SICKNESS AND MEDICATION POLICY**

On arrival at Grassroots Day Nursery, it is essential for parents to notify staff about their child's state of health, whether the child is suffering or has recently suffered from any illness, has had a loose motion, an above normal temperature or has been vomiting.

Grassroots Day Nursery will request children to be cleared, either by a doctor or by nursery staff, for any illness such as stomach upsets, sickness or diarrhoea, before returning to Nursery. The department for health stipulates that children must be excluded if suffering from any infectious illness until the child is well. Children will be excluded for a minimum of 48 hours after they have become symptom-free. With diarrhoea and vomiting illnesses, the child will need to be well for 48 hours before returning to Nursery.

Please cooperate with us to improve the health and well being of all those who attend or work at Grassroots Day Nursery. Consideration by parents for the entire group must be exercised. If your child is unwell, then a loving parent with a cosy home environment and sleep is what is required until your child is fully well again. This produces the best results for all concerned. Parents must give their child's welfare priority and keep them at home until they are well. Medications such as antibiotics need time to work in order to prevent further infection.

Infant suspension medicine (e.g. Calpol/Nurofen) will be given once, if your child develops a temperature. We will attempt to contact you or your emergency contacts before any medication is administered. In the event contact cannot be made and the child has been in our care for 4 hours or more, we will administer Calpol if it is deemed to be in the child's best interests. If the temperature persists, professional medical assistance will be sought and we will continue to try and contact parent's/carers. Please refer to our Hospitalisation Policy

A normal temperature for at least twenty-four hours prior to your child's return is requested.

Medical authorisation forms are to be completed on a daily basis for each medication. As antibiotics and medicines are prescribed over a twenty-four hour period, it is essential to spread the dosage so that maximum affect is achieved. Inhalers and breathing equipment will be administered as required in emergencies.

All medications are to be stored in their original containers, bear the child's name, be in date, and kept inaccessible to children.

Staff members are permitted to give medication to the children providing the following are adhered to:

If a child has fallen unwell whilst at nursery attempts to contact parents by telephone will be made, and oral consent obtained to give the child over the counter medication. In the event contact cannot be made and the child has been in our care for 4 hours or more, we will administer Calpol if it is deemed to be in the child's best interests. If the temperature persists, professional medical assistance will be sought and we will continue to try and contact parents/carers. Please refer to our Hospitalisation Policy

- A medication form must be completed by the appropriate person and completed by the parent/carer when collecting the child

- When medicine is being administered it must be checked by two members of staff to ensure the correct medication and quantity is given
- An additional record of medicines to be administered must be kept where all members of staff can see it, and signed once the medication has been administered
- Only qualified members of staff may give medicine to children. This person is responsible for ensuring the medication form has been completed correctly

If the administration of prescribed medications requires technical/medical knowledge, individual training is to be provided to staff members from a qualified health professional. Training is specific to the individual child concerned.

#### **MINIMUM TIME CHILDREN SHOULD BE AWAY FROM NURSERY DUE TO ILLNESS:**

- **Prescribed antibiotics** - the child should remain at home for the first 24 hours after first dose of antibiotics has been given
- **Temperature** - will be sent home and cannot return until the child is well again (A normal temperature for at least twenty-four hours prior to your child's return is requested.)
- **Vomiting and Diarrhoea** - child must be kept away from nursery for 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea
- **Conjunctivitis** - child will be sent home and can return when medication has been prescribed
- **Chickenpox** – usually seven days after the appearance of the rash (all spots must be completely scabbed)
- **Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning, salmonellas and dysentery** - until authorised by a doctor
- **Measles** - five to seven days from onset of rash
- **Mumps** - until all swelling has gone; approximately 10 days
- **Pertussis (whooping cough)** - 21 days from onset of paroxysmal cough
- **Rubella (German measles)** - four days from appearance of rash
- **Shingles** - seven days from appearance of rash
- **Thread worm** - until treated
- **Tonsillitis** - minimum 24 hours after antibiotics
- **Impetigo** - until skin has completely healed
- **Pediculosis (lice)** - until appropriate treatment has been given
- **Ring worm of scalp** - until cured
- **Ringworm of body** - seldom needs exclusion
- **Hand, Foot and Mouth** - until the blisters have disappeared

Grassroots Day Nursery must be informed if a child has a contagious disease/illness in order to prevent the illness spreading however such information will be treated sensitively and in a confidential manner.

Grassroots Day Nursery may reserve the right to request a letter from the child's GP before allowing them to return to the nursery.

#### **EBOLA VIRUS**

Parents/guardians should not be unduly worried about the possibility of their children catching the Ebola Virus. You may wish to use the following key points from the Public Health England advice to reassure them:

The risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is low and to date there have been no cases of Ebola Virus Disease being contracted in the UK.

Any person arriving in the UK having travelled from any Ebola affected countries will be screened. If they are free of symptoms they are not infectious so there should be no restrictions on their school attendance or normal activities.

It is not possible to catch Ebola from a person who is not showing signs of being infected. It can only be caught by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is ill with the disease.

There is no reason why your child/children should not continue to attend school or their early years setting as normal.

**SICKNESS & MEDICATION – LONG TERM MEDICAL NEEDS**

For children who have long-term medical treatment, an individual health care plan is drawn up to support the child’s medical needs and the support required for this.

It is important to develop an individual care plan depending on the child’s medical condition.

In developing a care plan for each child the following procedure is carried out:

- Child’s Name
- Child’s D.O.B
- Medical/ Diagnosis
- Condition of the child
- In event of emergency treatment what to do
- In event of no response what to do
- Parents contact details
- GP name and contact details

All emergency care plans must be check and signed by GP or other health care professionals (depending on the level of support the child needs).

Emergency care plans are kept inside child’s classroom where it is accessible for staff to follow the care plan in case of an emergency.

All practitioners will be informed of child’s medical condition and its emergency care plan.

Medication is kept in sealed containers clearly labelled with child’s name and containing a copy of its emergency care plan.

Signed .....Proprietor
Signed.....Manager
To be updated 1/11/2017 or before if required