

Sickness and Medication Policy

Moorwell Miracles Nursery aims to provide the best possible care for all our children and has a responsibility to protect the children from passing on germs and becoming ill whilst at the setting.

As a result, the nursery cannot admit poorly children into the setting, especially when they are contagious to others. If a child becomes unwell whilst in the care of the nursery, parents/carers will be called to collect their child. This will be decided by a member of the Nursery Management Team.

Whilst we appreciate that it can be a difficult time for working parents, we have to take into consideration the health and well-being of all of the children who attend the nursery.

To help prevent the spread of illness, staff with communicable diseases will not work in the nursery whilst they are infectious.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child does not attend nursery and put other children/staff at risk. Please use the following guidelines before bringing your child back to nursery:

- Colds and Flu: The child should have a normal temperature and feel fit and healthy.
- Conjunctivitis: Cream/drops must have been received from the doctor or pharmacist and treatment should have commenced for 24 hours before returning to nursery.
- Chicken Pox: All spots must be completely scabbed over (usually 5-10 days incubation period).
- Impetigo: Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.
- Hand, Foot and Mouth: The child should have a normal temperature and feel fit and healthy.
- Measles: Exclusion period of 4 days from onset of rash. Rash should have gone and child presenting fit and healthy.
- Sickness/Diarrhoea: At least 48 hours must pass since the last bout. Whilst at nursery, parent/carers will be contacted to collect if their child has two bouts of diarrhoea within 30 minutes of one another. Children with one instance of diarrhoea will be monitored and if they continue to show signs of diarrhoea after 30 minutes, the Management Team's decision is final as to whether the child should be sent home. Any child who is sick at nursery will be sent home.
- Temperature: The normal temperature for a child is around 37°C. If a child has a temperature of 38°C or more prior to coming to nursery, it is likely that they are poorly and should not attend nursery until they are fit and well.
- Unknown rashes: Medical advice should be sought.
- Broken limbs/Stitches: According to medical advice and based on the individual child this will be discussed with parents and a risk assessment put in place.
- Seizures and convulsions – to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children who have had a seizure or convulsion, either at or outside of the nursery,

children will need to be assessed medically and remain at home for 48 hours following the seizure or convulsion.

If a parent is not sure whether their child is able to attend due to illness, please contact the Nursery Manager before your child is due to attend to check. Please also refer to Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency).

If a child is showing signs of being ill, or tells a member of staff they are ill, a member of the Management Team will assess your child's needs and make the decision whether there is a need at that point to contact you. If it is thought that a child should go home because they are too ill to be in nursery, a member of the Management Team will contact you to collect your child. The child will be cared for by a member of staff in a quiet area away from other children until parents / carers arrive to collect them.

If a child has a notifiable illness, serious injury resulting in disability; or a death of a child, the nursery will contact the Department of Health and Ofsted.

All staff and parents/carers must abide by the sickness policy.

Medication Administration

The following is a guide to how and when medicine will be administered in the nursery. However please bear in mind that the final decision regarding the administration of all medicines is the responsibility of the Managing Directors, Nursery Manager or Deputy Manager.

Prescription medicines and antibiotics must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

Antibiotics – Each time a child has a new prescription of antibiotics, regardless of whether they have had the antibiotics before, they will not be able to attend the nursery until 24 hours after the first dose. This is precautionary as children can have an allergic reaction to the antibiotic and should not be in nursery in case they require medical attention. A medication form for the antibiotics required will be added to the child's Family profile by a member of the Management Team. Once notified, parents must acknowledge the medication form to ensure that all information is correct. If any information is wrong, please contact the nursery immediately so that we can rectify this and administer the antibiotics as stated. Please note: no antibiotics will be administered without the medication form being acknowledged by a parent/carer first.

Conjunctivitis - Non-prescription medication for eye drops/creams to treat conjunctivitis must only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer in the form of a medication form on the Family App. Eye drops can be purchased over the counter; however, a pharmacy label would be preferred, please ask your pharmacist to apply a label where possible. The nursery's policy on conjunctivitis is that the child may not attend until **24 hours after treatment has commenced.**

Ear drops/sprays - In the case of antibiotic ear drops/spray, the first dose must have been administered at home and written permission for that particular medicine will be obtained from the child's parent/carer in the form of a medication form on the Family App.

Antibiotic/Steroid Creams/Ointments – Where antibiotic/steroid creams/ointment is prescribed for the treatment of skin conditions, the first dose must be applied at home. Children may then attend nursery as usual providing that the exclusion period for the condition has been observed where necessary. Written permission for that particular medicine will be obtained from the child's parent/carer in the form of a medication form on the Family App.

Paracetamol – Upon joining the nursery, parents will be asked to sign a form to give permission to administer paracetamol in the case of a high temperature. This forms part of their registration form and the nursery reserves the right to gain this permission via a 'Permissions Form' on the Family App. If a parent/carer gives permission for paracetamol to be administered in the case of a high temperature, a medication form will be added to the child's Family Profile for the parent/carer to acknowledge. This medication form will have no end date and if a child does need emergency paracetamol, parents will be contacted where possible to provide verbal permission to administer the medicine. Emergency paracetamol will only be given by a member of the Management Team after assessing the child. The member of staff administering medication will then update the child's medication form to state that the medication was administered. The member of staff should immediately acknowledge this and ask for parents to acknowledge too.

Paracetamol will only be administered if a child presents with a high temperature (38°C or more) on two different readings taken ten minutes apart. If after 10 minutes their temperature has not decreased below 38°C, or is continuing to rise, a member of the Management Team will contact parents/carers for consent to give emergency paracetamol. If after 30 minutes the temperature is still not decreasing, is rising, or the child presents as still unwell, parents will be asked to collect.

If a child's temperature is 39°C or above, parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child and emergency paracetamol given upon consent from the parents/carers.

Temperatures will be taken in both ears and added to the child's profile on the Family app.

If a parent/carer makes the setting aware that their child has had paracetamol or ibuprofen before coming to nursery, they will be closely monitored and if they are unwell, parents/carers will be contacted to collect. No second dose of paracetamol will be administered to children who have had either paracetamol or ibuprofen before coming to nursery. The exception to this would be if the child has been in nursery for over 4 hours and they present with a temperature over 38°C. In this instance, parents will be called to collect immediately after one reading and emergency paracetamol given upon consent from the parents/carers.

Parental requests for the nursery to administer paracetamol or ibuprofen for feeling unwell, unsettled or teething will not be authorised. Parents/carers are welcome to

arrange to come to nursery and administer paracetamol or ibuprofen themselves in these instances, however, if the child continues to present as unwell, the Management Team's decision as to whether a child needs to be collected is final.

The amount of paracetamol administered will relate to the amount stated on the packaging and according to your child's age.

If a child attends nursery the day after paracetamol has been administered and they present as unwell or with a high temperature again, parents/carers will be asked to collect immediately. This will be from the first temperature taken and there will be no option to see if a child gets better within 30 minutes. If emergency paracetamol is needed for a high temperature, this will be administered whilst waiting for a parent/carer to collect and only after gaining permission.

When a child presents with a high temperature and they have been in the nursery for less than 4 hours, parents/carers will be asked if their child has had paracetamol or ibuprofen before attending nursery. If they have, parents will be asked to collect immediately as we are unable to provide a second dose of paracetamol within this time frame. This is to safeguard children from a potential overdose of medication.

Children's antihistamines – Upon joining the nursery we will seek permission to administer children's antihistamines in the case of an emergency. Permission will be sought via the Family App. If a parent/carer gives permission for children's antihistamines to be administered in the case of an allergic reaction, a medication form will be added to the child's Family Profile for the parent/carer to acknowledge. This medication form will have no end date and if a child does need emergency children's antihistamine, parents will be contacted where possible to provide verbal permission to administer the medicine. Emergency children's antihistamine will only be given by a member of the Management Team, and only after assessing the child and the reaction that they are having. The nursery reserves the right to ask parents to collect their child immediately in instances where emergency children's antihistamine has been administered. The member of staff administering medication will then update the child's medication form to state that the medication was administered. The member of staff should immediately acknowledge this and ask for parents to acknowledge too.

Please note: if children's antihistamines have been prescribed by your child's GP, this must be reviewed on a regular basis. Your child may require a care plan depending on the reasons for this prescription.

Creams/lotions – creams or lotions that do not contain antibiotics or steroids, either prescribed or purchased, must be discussed with the Management Team prior to commencement of treatment. The container will be labelled with your child's name and written permission for the application of cream will be sought through a Family message giving details of when and where on the body the cream/lotion should be applied (please note, this does not apply to the application of creams for instances such as nappy rash on babies during nappy changes. A permission is already in place for this as part of registration).

Inhalers and other Long-Term Medication - Parents/carers of children with inhalers and other long-term medications will be asked to acknowledge a medication form/care

plan only once. However, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the nursery of any changes.

Teething – herbal teething remedies such as Ashtons & Parson or Nelsons powder and over the counter teething gels can be administered in instances of teething. Staff will identify the signs of teething that are in line with the information provided by the NHS website. These are:

Baby teeth sometimes emerge with no pain or discomfort at all.

At other times, you may notice:

- their gum is sore and red where the tooth is coming through
- they have a mild temperature of less than 38C
- they have 1 flushed cheek
- they have a rash on their face
- they're rubbing their ear
- they're dribbling more than usual
- they're gnawing and chewing on things a lot
- they're more fretful than usual
- they're not sleeping very well

Please note: Some people think that teething causes other symptoms, such as diarrhoea, but there's no evidence to support this.

Reference: NHS.UK

Under no circumstance will paracetamol or ibuprofen be administered for teething. Parents/carers are welcome to arrange for themselves or someone else to come to nursery to administer paracetamol or ibuprofen, however, if there is no improvement, the child will be sent home as it is likely the child is ill. The management team will use their professional judgement and their decision is final.

Failure to collect - where a parent/guardian has been contacted and asked to collect their child on medical grounds we expect this to be within one hour of the initial contact from the nursery.

Where parents/guardians are unable to collect within this time, or if parents/guardians have not returned the nursery's call regarding the arrangements for the collection of their child within 30 minutes, this will be treated as failure to collect and we reserve the right to telephone the emergency contacts and request that they collect the child.

If, after a further 30 minutes the staff have been unsuccessful in contacting the child's parents/guardians or other named emergency contacts, or there will be considerable delay in the child being collected, Children's Services will be contacted, their advice will be sought and followed. Where possible, messages will be left on parents/guardians answer phones to inform them of the procedure being followed.

Please note that where a parent/guardian has been contacted and asked to collect their child on medical grounds and the parent/guardian has refused to do so this will be treated as failure to collect and the above procedure will be followed.