

Hygiene, Sickness, and Infection Control Policy – Enhanced for Covid19 procedures and any pandemic.

This policy is part of our 'System of controls', it has been formulated using information from ,NHS Direct, the Statutory Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is part of the Nursery's Health and Safety documentation. Further information can be obtained from the Government Coronavirus Guidance online, NHS online advice and the NHS 111 service.

We aim to safeguard the health of Nursery children, parents, and staff through: -

- Clear and comprehensive Risk Assessment, Policies and Procedures.
- Effective communication with parents
- Helping the children to learn about how to keep healthy and developing their independence in self-care routines
- Rigorous hygiene and infection control practices.
- Exclusion of children and adults who are unwell for nursery, including those with Covid 19 Symptoms and/or infections.
- Prompt and appropriate identification and exclusion for/treatment of infections

Policy:

- The Nursery Management Team ensure that all staff have appropriate resources and knowledge through induction procedures, policies, training, meetings, and memos.
- The Nursery manager will ensure that all parents receive details of this policy.
- The Nursery Management Team will keep a record of illness' and will use this information to ensure appropriate hygiene measures within the Nursery, information for parents and to determine if there is a need to gain advice from the Health Protection Team or report to Ofsted. In the case of Covid-19, a set procedure is followed.
- The Nursery Management Team ensure that there is a team of 'bank staff' to assist in covering staff absence due to illness wherever possible.
- Nursery staff ensure that all areas, equipment, and resources are clean through efficient hygiene practices (schedules and risk assessment) and routines.
- Nursery staff ensure that they follow Nursery Procedures for effective hand, toilet and nappy hygiene whilst maintaining the highest quality of care for all Nursery children.
- Nursery staff help to raise the children's awareness of good hygiene practices by consistently teaching them about the importance of hand washing, cleaning teeth, nose wiping and disposal of tissues (catch it, bin it, kill it), spread of infection through coughing and sneezing and using the toilet correctly.
- Nursery parents are requested to ensure that their children are fit and healthy to attend Nursery, to inform the Nursery if their child has been unwell and to collect their child from Nursery if they become ill.

The Nursery do not wish to exclude a child for health reasons unless necessary and are keen to work with parents in information sharing. The Nursery are aware that children can display a variety of symptoms e.g. loose stools due to teething or food intolerances, which may not lead to the child requiring time off. However, during the coronavirus outbreak, a child who has any covid19 symptoms must be kept away from nursery and

follow the recommended government advice for self-isolation and testing along with our own, nursery policy (which may occasionally be different).

Little Acorns Montessori will refuse to receive a child who appears to have Covid19 symptoms or is sick, unwell, or unfit for the Nursery session on arrival. Parents and carers will be required to collect an unwell child from Nursery.

Children must be kept away from the Nursery if they are suffering from the following:

- **Coronavirus, Covid19 Symptoms** – Any symptoms including a temperature, new/persistent cough, or lack of appetite.
- **Chicken Pox** – child must remain away from the Nursery from five days from the onset of the rash/spots. The spots must be dry before returning, meaning that in very bad cases children may need longer than five days off before they can return.
- **Mumps** – child must remain away from the Nursery until five days after the swelling first appeared.
- **German measles**- child must remain away from the Nursery for six days after the onset of the rash.
- **Sickness** – child must remain away from the Nursery until well again and must be symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours.
- **Diarrhoea** – child must remain away from the Nursery until well again and must be symptom free for a minimum of 48 hours.
- **Other contagious illnesses which put others at risk** – please seek advice from the Nursery or consult a doctor.
- **Antibiotics** – children with infections requiring antibiotic treatment can attend their Nursery sessions, if they are well enough in themselves. Staff can administer antibiotics that are prescribed by a doctor provided that the first dose is administered away from nursery and the child kept away from nursery for the first 12-24 hours of treatment.

If a child becomes unwell during their time at Nursery, the Manager will contact the child's parent/carer to take the child home.

If a child needs to take prescribed medicine whilst in the care of Little Acorns Montessori, the following procedure applies:

- A first dose of antibiotics must be administered by the child's parent and the child kept away from nursery for the first 12 hours.
- Medication is handed over to a member of Nursery staff and recorded in the medicine book by the child's parent. The parent/carer must give written details of the dosage and times. This must be signed by the parent/carer and the time of the child's last dose must be recorded.
- Medicines must be clearly labelled with the prescription label, and the expiry date checked.
- Medicines will be stored in a medicine compartment in the fridge.
- Medication will be administered by a member of staff with a minimum Level 3 qualification and witnessed by another member of staff. The time will be recorded and signed.
- At the end of the child's session, the parent/carer is required to take the medicine home and will be asked to check and sign the medicine record.

Management and staff at Little Acorns are fully aware of the pressures caused to families when a child requires time away from the Nursery due to illness. However, whilst being sympathetic, we must also safeguard the health of all Nursery users. Parents who wish to contribute to this policy can speak to a senior member of staff.