# Beechoak Farm Montessori Pre-school

**Promoting health, safety and hygiene**

**3.5 Managing poorly children**

**Policy statement**

*We promote a child's individual health through managing and preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.*

**Procedure**

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea* and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager or key person calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using an ear thermometer.
- If a child's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then Calpol may be given after gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning their child to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 24 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- After a diagnosis of conjunctivitis parents are asked to keep children home for 24 hours from the start of treatment.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies the owner if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.

- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

**HIV/AIDS procedure**

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.
- Toys are kept clean and plastic toys cleaned in sterilising solution regularly.

**Nits and head lice**

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.

**Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)**

The use of paracetamol-based medicine may not be agreed in all cases. A setting cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis, unless there is an immediate reason for doing so. Settings do not normally keep such medicine on the premises as they are not allowed to 'prescribe'. However, given the risks to young children of high temperatures, insurers may allow minor infringement of the regulations as the risk of not administering may be greater. Ofsted is normally in agreement with this. In all cases, parents must sign to say they agree to the setting administering paracetamol-based medicine in the case of high temperature on the basis

that they are on their way to collect. Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of the setting for a normal day.

This policy was adopted by staff at Beechoak Farm Montessori preschool.
Held on 2nd December 2025
Date to be reviewed December 2026
Signed on behalf of Beechoak Farm Montessori by

Charlotte Muggleton & Hayley Majeika
Proprietor Manager