

Chollerton Pre-School Ltd

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Reg. Charity 1132501 Company No. 07005338



Chollerton Preschool **Sickness and Illness Policy**

This policy has been devised to ensure that children who become unwell whilst at preschool, are treated with sensitivity and respect. It is also to help us to protect other children from illness and the spread of infection.

Children should not be brought to preschool if they are unwell. If a child is unwell then they will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) rather than at preschool with their peers.

Procedure-

We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the preschool -

- If a child becomes ill during the preschool day, the parent(s) will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with their key person or another familiar member of staff within the child's room
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as an ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to preschool until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is exceedingly unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection. With a case of conjunctivitis we ask that the child does not return to nursery for 24 hours after starting medication
- If a contagious infection (e.g. covid 19) is identified in the preschool, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of infection.
- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the preschool day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course
- The preschool has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the preschool leader / manager and is non-negotiable
- Information / posters about head lice are readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the preschool so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the preschool that their child has meningitis, the preschool leader / manager should contact the School Nurse for the Northumberland area and Ofsted. The

school nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the preschool, we will be contacted directly by the school nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

If an unwell or infectious child comes into the preschool -

The preschool leader / manager reserves the right not to accept any child who is unwell into the preschool. It is unfair on the child to be here when they need to be with their parent / carers or having one to one attention. It is also unfair to the rest of the children who are here if they are knowingly in contact with an illness or infection.

Diarrhoea and vomiting

All children must be kept away from preschool for a minimum of 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. If a child is sent home from preschool the 48 hours exclusion still applies. Therefore if your child is due in the following day they will not be able to attend. Children should only return to preschool when they are well enough and have regained their appetite.

Fever -

All children must be kept away from preschool for a minimum of 24 hours or until their fever has returned to normal. If a child is sent home from the preschool the 24 hours exclusion still applies. Therefore if your child is due in the following day they will not be able to attend. The preschool will not administer any medicine that has not been prescribed by their doctor, pharmacist or dentist e.g.: Calpol, Nurofen etc.

Preschool staff have the right to refuse to administer any medication with which they feel uncomfortable. Please can all parents respect our staff's decisions as our policies are in place to prevent infection from spreading around the preschool.

If a child becomes unwell whilst at preschool -

If a child begins to show signs or symptoms that could pertain to illness they should firstly be comforted by staff, preferably the key person. This should be in the form of reassurance, both verbal and physical as appropriate, e.g. cuddles.

As soon as a child shows signs of feeling unwell, and if it's possible the child's key person should spend one to one time with the child, attempting to find out what is wrong and if necessary administering first aid.

No prescribed medication may be given unless prior permission was obtained from the parent / carer that day and the stated dose is due to be given at that time.

The preschool leader / manager should be informed of any child who appears to be feeling unwell. If, after staff have done everything they can to make the child more comfortable, there is no sign of improvement, then the preschool leader / manager and the child's key person, will discuss whether or not to contact the parent / carers to come and collect their child.

If it is deemed to be in the best interests of the child to go home, the preschool manager / leader or key person will ring the parent / carers, getting the number from the child's information which is held in the contact file box in the office area. They will explain the signs and symptoms the child is displaying and ask them to come and collect him / her.

If the preschool manager / leader or key person is unable to contact the parent / carer they will then go on to the next person on the contact list, usually the second parent / carer, continuing down the list of authorised persons as necessary.

Whilst their parent / carers are being contacted the child should continue to be comforted by a member of staff.

Plenty of fluids should be offered to the child and if their temperature is higher or lower than usual this should be addressed immediately. Any other symptoms should be treated as necessary.

The child should always be treated with the utmost sensitivity and respect as feeling poorly can be distressing and quite frightening for a child. They should have a staff member with them, preferably their key person, until their parent / carer or authorised person arrives to collect them.

The child should have privacy as much as possible and be able to be in a quiet area away from other children, with the staff member. Usually a quiet area can be made in the child's playroom.

Should a child's symptoms deteriorate whilst waiting for their parent / carers the preschool leader / manager should be informed immediately.

If the preschool leader / manager feels that it's necessary, they should call for an ambulance. The preschool leader / manager must then inform the parent / carers to meet them at the local hospital. First aid should be administered to the child as necessary.

Transporting children to hospital procedure -

- If the sickness is severe, call for an ambulance immediately. We will NOT attempt to transport the sick child in our own vehicles
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- A senior member of staff must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter. A member of the management team must also be informed immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. If you are confident and assertive the child will feel reassured.

Calling an ambulance-

Dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. Answer all questions honestly and clearly. When asked to give the address and telephone number, we will use the following details -

Chollerton Preschool

C/o Chollerton First School

Station road

Barrasford

Hexham

NE48 4AJ

Tel: (01434) 681572

The preschool leader / manager and key person if possible, will go with the child to the hospital, taking the child's registration form which includes all their medical details and the consent for medical attention, and any of the child's special comforters.

Reports should be written up by the preschool leader / manager and key person and any witnesses to be kept on file. Members of staff will be offered time out and an opportunity to discuss what happened and how they are feeling.

Febrile convulsions, anaphylactic shock and any other fit or seizure -

If a child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately and the same steps taken as above.

Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that may require resuscitation measures such as airway management, supplemental oxygen, large volumes of intravenous fluids, and close monitoring. Administration of epinephrine (Epipen) may be required and only staff with Epipen training should be called upon to administer such treatment.

We have included an exclusion table for you information and as an example of what to do if your child is poorly.

If you have any questions regarding this sickness and illness policy then please speak to a member of staff.

This Policy has been agreed by the Chollerton preschool committee

Signed by Pre-School Manager

Signed on behalf of the committee

This Policy was reviewed in June 2023