

22. Infection Control Policy

At La Petite Academy we promote the good health of all children attending (including oral health) through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance¹ which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment and/or medication is required and where to get further advice from.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus, which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand and face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses. Therefore we:

- Ask parents to keep children at home if they are unwell. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers
- Ask staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell
- Help children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious snacks, meals and drinks
- Minimise infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand-washing processes
- Ensure children have regular access to the outdoors and have good ventilation inside. Children who are well enough to attend the setting are well enough to take part in outdoor activities
- Share information with parents about the importance of the vaccination programme for young children to help protect them and the wider society from communicable diseases and that all children aged 6 months to 5 years should take a daily vitamin
- Have areas for rest and sleep, where required, and share information about the importance of sleep and how many hours/when young children should be having.

We ask that parents inform us if their children are not vaccinated so that we can manage any risks to their own child or other children, staff and parents in the best way possible. The nursery manager must be aware of any children within the nursery who are not vaccinated in accordance with their age.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

We make all parents aware that some children in the nursery may not be vaccinated, due to their age, medical reasons or parental choice. Our nursery does not discriminate against children who have not received their immunisations and will not disclose individual details to other parents. However, we will share the risks of infection if children have not had immunisations and may ask parents to sign a disclaimer.

We encourage parents to record information about immunisations on children's registration documents, and we update this information as and when necessary, including when the child reaches the age for the appropriate immunisations.

Staff vaccinations policy

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure they keep up to date with their vaccinations, as recommended by the NHS vaccination schedule and keep the nursery informed.

If a member of staff is unsure as to whether they are up to date, then we recommend that they visit their GP or practice nurse for their own good health.

Emergency information

We keep emergency information for every child and update it every year with regular reminders to parents in newsletters, at parents' evenings and a reminder notice on the Parent Information Board.

Our procedures

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person (wearing PPE as necessary), wherever possible
- We follow the guidance published by UK Health Security Agency for managing specific infectious diseases and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery. Should there be a reportable outbreak we will follow the enhanced procedures as given
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours

- We take into account that children may be sick or have diarrhoea due to factors other than infectious illness (e.g. teething, adverse reaction to foodstuffs) and work with parents to allow children into the setting where this is demonstrably the case
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection
- We notify Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises
- We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 24 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions, e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell). This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery 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 and the potential for side effects of this medication
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell at entry. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- We make information and posters about head lice 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 nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery.

Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser, or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear, or use shoe covers, when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable, go without shoes or wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms (e.g. Baby Unit, Tweenies, Sensory Room) and make sure that children wear them as well
- Follow the First Aid and Accidents policy when children require hospital treatment.

In addition:

- The manager on duty retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, carers, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained.
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus and/or pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis.
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection.
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

If a child requires medicine, we will obtain information about the child's needs for this and will ensure this information is kept up to date. We follow strict guidelines when dealing with medication of any kind in the nursery and these are set out below. We do not administer any medication containing Aspirin.

Medication prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist

- Prescription medicine will **only** be given when prescribed by the above and for the person named on the bottle for the dosage stated and the relevant form has been completed in full and signed by a person with parental responsibility
- All children must have had 24 hours of their antibiotics prior to the nursery administering these so that children do not have an adverse reaction in our care
- Medicines must be in their original containers with their instructions and a printed label from a GP/pharmacy with the child's name on, printed in English, and be in date

- Those with parental responsibility for any child requiring prescription medication should hand over the medication to the most appropriate member of staff who will then note the details of the administration on the appropriate form and a manager will check these details and sign to say that the medication can be given
- Those with parental responsibility must give prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication. However, we will accept written permission once for a whole course of medication or for the ongoing use of a particular medication under the following circumstances:
 - a. The written permission is only acceptable for that brand name of medication and cannot be used for similar types of medication, e.g. if the course of antibiotics changes, a new form will need to be completed
 - b. The dosage on the written permission is the only dosage that will be administered. We will not give a different dose unless a new form is completed
 - c. Parents must notify us **IMMEDIATELY** if the child's circumstances change, e.g. a dose has been given at home, or a change in strength or dose needs to be given
- The nursery will not administer a dosage that exceeds the recommended dose on the instructions unless accompanied by written instructions from a relevant health professional such as a letter from a doctor or dentist
- The parent must be asked when the child has last been given the medication before coming to nursery and the staff member must record this information on the medication form. Similarly, when the child is picked up, the parent must be given precise details of the times and dosage given throughout the day. The parent's signature must be obtained at both times
- If a form has not been fully completed and signed off by a manager, then the medication cannot be administered. Parents must ensure that a person with parental responsibility is able to complete the form and allow time for this at drop off.
- At the time of administering the medicine, a senior member of staff (manager, room leader or SENDCO) will ask the child to take the medicine, or offer it in a manner acceptable to the child at the prescribed time, or as near as possible due to naps/meals etc, and in the prescribed form. (It is important to note that staff working with children are not legally obliged to administer medication)
- If the child refuses to take the appropriate medication, then a note will be made on the form

- Where medication is 'essential' or may have side effects, discussion with the parent will take place to establish the appropriate response to a refusal to take
- Where medication requires specific skills and knowledge to administer correctly (e.g. adrenaline, insulin) this will not be administered by staff until such time as training has been completed, led by a trained professional (e.g. KITE team) which may result in a delay in a child being able to attend the setting.

Non-prescription medication (*these will not usually be administered*)

- The nursery will not usually administer any non-prescription medication
- If the nursery feels the child would benefit from medical attention rather than non-prescription medication, we reserve the right to refuse nursery care until the child is seen by a medical practitioner
- An emergency nursery supply of fever relief (e.g. Calpol) and antihistamines (e.g. Piriton) will be stored on site. This will be checked at regular intervals by the designated trained first aider to make sure that it complies with any instructions for storage and is still in date
- If a child needs liquid paracetamol or similar medication during their time at nursery (e.g. where their temperature reaches 38.5 degrees or above during the day) such medication will be administered as long as parents have consented to this on their registration form. The child's temperature will be taken twice and recorded on the appropriate form. If it is over 39 degrees on the first check, parents will be contacted immediately. Otherwise, the temperature will be checked at 15-minute intervals and if it is at 38.5 degrees or above at two consecutive checks, then parents will be contacted
- Parents will be contacted by phone, and two staff members will be present to hear them agree to a dose to be given and will inform us if the child has been given a dose in the previous 24 hours
- Parents are not able to provide their own liquid paracetamol etc to be given in nursery unless it has been prescribed as above or agreed in advance with the nursery manager (e.g. where consumables are provided by parents) and an unopened and in date bottle is provided
- Giving non-prescription medication will be a last resort and the nursery staff will use other methods first to try and alleviate the symptoms where appropriate (e.g. removing outer layers of clothing, taking to a cooler room). It should be remembered that a raised temperature is the body's natural and healthy response to fighting a virus or bacterial infection, and

NHS advice is to only give medication when the child is showing signs of distress or discomfort

- Once emergency medication has been given, it requires up to 30 minutes before the child's temperature is expected to reduce
- After 45 minutes, should the child show no signs of improvement, then parents will be requested to collect them. The child will be closely monitored until the parents arrive
- For nappy changes a non-prescription cream can be applied, e.g. Sudocrem, and the onus is on the parent to provide the cream which should be clearly labelled with the child's name
- For teething a non-prescription sachet of powder with no active medical ingredients (e.g. herbal) can be administered when children are in a lot of pain. Prior consent must be obtained from a manager and a medical form completed as above
- If any child is brought to the nursery in a condition in which he/she may require medication sometime during the day, the manager will decide if the child is fit to be left at the nursery. If the child is staying, the parent must be asked if any kind of medication has already been given, at what time and in what dosage and this must be stated on a home medication form
- As with any kind of medication, staff will ensure that the parent is informed of any non-prescription medicines given to the child whilst at the nursery at their daily feedback, together with the times and dosage given

The nursery DOES NOT administer any medication unless prior written consent is given for each and every medicine.

Injections, pessaries, suppositories

As the administration of injections, pessaries and suppositories represents intrusive nursing, we will not administer these without appropriate medical training for every member of staff caring for this child. This training is specific for every child and not generic. The nursery will do all it can to make any reasonable adjustments including working with parents and other professionals to arrange for appropriate health officials to train staff in administering the medication. For children with long term medical requirements, an Individual Health Care Plan from the relevant health team will be in place to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to meet the child's needs. The nursery reserves the right to delay a child's start date in the setting, or pause a child's placement, whilst medical advice and training is sought in such cases.

Staff medication

All nursery staff have a responsibility to work with children only where they are fit to do so. Staff must not work with children where they are infectious or feel unwell and cannot meet children's needs. This includes circumstances where any medication taken affects their ability to care for children, for example, where it makes a person drowsy.

If any staff member believes that their condition, including any condition caused by taking medication, is affecting their ability to care for children they must inform the manager and seek medical advice. The manager on duty will decide if a staff member is fit to work, including circumstances where other staff members notice changes in behaviour suggesting a person may be under the influence of medication. This decision may include any medical advice obtained by the individual or from an occupational health assessment.

Where staff may occasionally or regularly need medication, any such medication must be kept in the person's locker or a separate locked container in the nursery room should staff need easy access to the medication such as an asthma inhaler. In all cases it must be stored securely out of reach of the children, at all times. It must not be kept in the first aid box and must be labelled with the name of the member of staff.

Storage

All medication for children must have the child's name clearly written on the original container and kept in a closed box, which is out of reach of all children.

Emergency medication, such as inhalers and EpiPens, will be within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need, but will remain out of children's reach. Any antibiotics requiring refrigeration must be kept in a fridge inaccessible to children. This must be in a designated place with the child's name clearly written in the original container.

Medication stored in the setting will be regularly checked with the parents to ensure it continues to be required, along with checking that the details of the medication form remain current. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that ongoing medication remains in date.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
-----------------------------------	--	------------------------

25/03/26	<i>Carol Daly</i>	30/04/27
----------	-------------------	----------