

04. Health Procedures

04.05b Infection Control

Our Approach

Keeping children healthy is a core part of what we do. Young children are still building their immune systems, so preventing the spread of illness is essential. We follow strong infection-control routines every day and take additional steps if an outbreak occurs.

How We Prevent the Spread of Illness

1. Children who are unwell must stay home

To protect others, children should not attend nursery if they show signs of an infectious illness.

They must stay home for the recommended exclusion period based on UKHSA guidance and per our 'poorly child policy'

2. Frequent and thorough handwashing

- Children and staff wash hands more often during outbreaks.
- Handwashing happens before meals, after toileting, after outdoor play, and whenever needed.

3. Good respiratory hygiene ("Catch it, Bin it, Kill it")

We teach and remind children to:

- Catch coughs/sneezes in a tissue
- Bin the tissue
- Wash their hands afterwards

4. PPE during outbreaks

When necessary—such as during a confirmed illness outbreak—staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) like gloves and aprons.

When There Is an Infection Outbreak

If an illness spreads through the setting:

- We follow guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- We take extra precautions, including increased cleaning, removing high-risk activities (e.g., shared sensory play), and monitoring all children closely
- Parents are kept informed so they know what symptoms to look for at home

Informing Others – When We Must Notify Ofsted

Early years providers must legally report some serious incidents, illnesses or injuries.

We must notify Ofsted if an illness or event involves any of the following:

- A child requiring resuscitation
- Hospital admission for 24 hours or more
- A broken bone or fracture
- Dislocation of a major joint (shoulder, knee, hip, elbow)
- Loss of consciousness
- Severe breathing difficulties, including asphyxia
- Anything causing hypothermia or heat-related illness

Notifiable Diseases

Sometimes, a confirmed case of a *Notifiable Disease* may also need reporting if it meets one of the above criteria.

Important notes for parents:

- Only a medical professional (GP/doctor) can diagnose a notifiable disease.
- If we suspect symptoms, we will ask parents to seek medical advice immediately.
- Once diagnosed, the case will be officially reported by the clinician.
- The UKHSA may then contact the setting with guidance.
- We may also contact UKHSA directly for advice if needed.

Further Guidance

- *Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control* (Alliance Publication)