



SICKNESS POLICY

To protect the health and wellbeing of all children in our care, we follow NHS guidelines regarding illness and infection. Please adhere to the following procedures if your child is unwell:

Sickness and Diarrhea

If your child has experienced vomiting or diarrhoea, they must be kept at home for **at least 48 hours** after the last episode. This is essential to reduce the risk of spreading infections.

Other Contagious Illnesses

If your child is displaying symptoms of any of the following, please keep them at home until symptoms have fully subsided:

- A high temperature (fever)
- Conjunctivitis
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Antibiotic Treatment

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics for an infection, we require that they remain at home for the **first 24 hours** of treatment. Once your child returns, we are happy to administer prescribed antibiotics during care. Please complete a **Permission to Administer Medication** form in advance.

Becoming Unwell During Care

If your child becomes unwell while in our care:

- We will contact you as soon as possible.
- With your permission, we may administer Calpol (paracetamol) if your child has a fever.
- If the fever does not reduce or your child's condition worsens, we will request that you collect them promptly and seek medical advice.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a healthy and safe environment for all children.

HEAD LICE

Head lice can affect individuals of any age, background, or ethnicity. The presence of head lice is not a reflection of hygiene or cleanliness. No child will be excluded from care due to head lice. We aim to manage outbreaks with discretion, support, and a clear, consistent approach.

Parent Responsibilities:

- If head lice or nits are detected, parents must begin treatment immediately using Hedrin or a similar head lice treatment.
- Parents are required to check their child's hair **at least once a week** using a special head lice comb to support early detection.

- Following treatment, it is recommended that parents use Tea Tree shampoo and conditioner and comb through the hair daily for **seven days** to help prevent re-infestation.
- Parents must notify **Little Goslings** immediately upon discovering that their child has head lice.

Little Goslings Support:

- We will provide up-to-date guidance on the effective treatment of head lice.
- All parents will be informed discreetly if a case of head lice has been reported within the setting.
- We are happy to assist with manual removal using a special head lice comb, with parental consent. Please speak with us to arrange this and complete the necessary authorisation form.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us manage this common childhood condition effectively.

Infection Control

In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all children and families, we kindly ask that any child who becomes unwell while in the setting—particularly if they develop diarrhoea—is collected as soon as possible. We have an extremely vulnerable parent within our community, and it is essential that we do everything we can to minimise the spread of viruses and bugs. Additionally, if your child has been prescribed antibiotics, they will need to remain at home for the first 48 hours to ensure they are well enough to return and to help prevent the spread of infection to others.

Childminder Sickness

As a working parent, I understand how important it is for you to have a reliable and consistent childcare provider. I am committed to working all the days I am contracted for and will make every effort to be available.

I will continue to work if I am experiencing a mild cold or cough. However, if I have a contagious illness such as sickness and diarrhoea or any other virus that could pose a risk to your child's health, I will not be able to provide direct care.

In such cases, my assistants will take over the care of the children. I will remain on the premises but will avoid close contact to prevent the spread of illness. Should an emergency arise, I will be available to assist as needed.

If my assistant is also unwell and unable to attend, **Little Goslings** will remain open, and I will make every effort to arrange additional support to maintain continuity of care.