



Little Forest Folk

Sickness and Emergency Treatment Policy

Date Created: November 2024

Reviewed by: Xiao Flynn 2025 - 21st July 2026

Aim

We aim to promote the good health of the children in our care and take steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action when a child becomes ill.

We want to ensure that whilst in our care any child with medical needs receives the support and proper care needed.

We aim for clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the setting and of the parents in respect of each child's medical needs.

Method

In order for a child to enjoy their time at Little Forest Folk and be able to learn and grow healthy, they must be well enough to attend. We do not expect parents to bring their child to Little Forest Folk if they are unwell. This may include symptoms of but not limited to; a cough or cold, flu, a temperature, earache, sickness and/ or diarrhea, sore throat or lethargy.

If a child is ill prior to coming to nursery, parents are required to telephone the nursery at their earliest convenience, as their child may have an infectious disease, so other parents / carers will need to be notified. Parents / Carers cannot return their child to the nursery until they are no longer infectious, in order to avoid contamination.

Where a child becomes unwell or ill during a session when possible we seek to contact the parent / carer to discuss the problem and decide on what course of action to take. Staff members will be appropriately trained in order to deal with each situation appropriately. In an emergency, we will contact the emergency services before contacting the parents / carers.

We obtain parental consents for emergency medical treatment for their child, and administering of prescribed and non-prescribed medication, as per Little Forest Folk's medication procedure policy.

In deciding on the best course of action we have to consider all the children and adults in our care, as well as the child /adult who is unwell.

Key Guidelines for Exclusion



Based upon Public Health England (PHE) guidance we adhere to the following exclusion periods depending upon the symptoms and illness:

No Exclusion: Head Lice, Conjunctivitis, Tonsillitis, Roseola, Slapped Cheek, Threadworms, Hand, Foot and Mouth

48 Hours:

- Vomiting – after last symptom
- Diarrhoea – after last symptom

5 Days from symptoms:

- Chicken Pox / Shingles – 24hrs after all spots have scabbed over. ***This is usually 5 days after appearance of last spots.***
- *Whooping Cough
- *German Measles
- *Measles
- *Mumps

Other

- *Scarlet Fever – can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotics or 2 weeks without antibiotics
- *Strep A - can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotics or 2 weeks without antibiotics
- Scabies – until fully treated
- Ringworm – until on treatment
- Impetigo – until lesions have crusted over

***Notifiable Diseases**

There is a list of notifiable diseases which we have a legal obligation to report to Public Health England and Ofsted should a child within our care become infected. Some are named in this policy and are shown by a '*' by the relevant illness.

In these cases we work closely with you, the parents, PHE and Ofsted to ensure we follow any additional advice that may be given.



HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) may affect children or families attending the setting. Staff may or may not be informed about it. Children or families are not excluded because of HIV.

Staff that are sick or unwell do not attend the setting and only return to work when they are well enough to do so.

Cuts or open sores, whether on adults or children should be covered with a sticky plaster or other suitable dressing. Verrucae must be covered with a waterproof plaster or clear nail varnish.

Treatment of illness procedure

Where a child becomes unwell or ill during a session when possible we seek to contact the Parent/Carer to discuss the problem and decide on what course of action to take.

In order for our qualified childcare practitioners to assess the child's condition, they may take the child's temperature using an ear or laser thermometer. Little Forest Folk will not administer temperature reducing medication. If the child's temperature is above 38°C the Parent/Carer will be called to advise them of their child's condition.

Send Child home early procedure

Where necessary, the Parent/Carer will be asked to collect the child. If this is not possible then they will be asked to telephone the nursery after 30 minutes. If there is no improvement after this period, the Parent/Carer or authorized person as per enrolment form will be required to collect their child.