

# **Happy Valley Pre-School Ltd**

## **Infection Control Policy**

This guide is to give you information on our infection control policy and the procedures should your child become unwell. Our policy follows the guidelines set out by the Health Protection Agency and Ofsted regarding infection control ([www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)).

The purpose of this document is to help us ensure a safe and healthy environment for all children within our care. At Happy Valley to reduce the risk of infections we:

- Provide protective clothing and equipment for staff in accordance with company procedures.
- Have daily, weekly and monthly routine sterilising processes in place.
- Have cleaners to clean premises daily.
- If an outbreak occurs a deep clean is completed in the appropriate area/s by Preschool staff and cleaners.

It is a fact that children will get ill. By following the guidelines in this policy it reduces unnecessary exposure to illnesses and ensures infections are managed effectively creating a happy and healthy Preschool for all.

This leaflet will cover:

- What happens if my child is ill at Pre-School?
- What happens if my child is ill at home?
- Key guidelines for exclusion.
- Information for Pregnant Mothers.

Should your child become ill they should only return to Preschool when your child is over any symptoms in accordance with the guidelines shown in this policy leaflet and are well enough to do so.

### **What happens if my child is ill at Preschool?**

If your child becomes ill at Preschool his/her condition is brought to the attention of one of the group leaders / Manager. A decision is then taken based upon the symptoms including any visible signs and the child's body temperature as to whether you are immediately informed or whether continued monitoring of the child should occur. Should a child's condition deteriorate you will be contacted by a member of the team and actions will be agreed. This could include administering of medicines if written consent has been given or collection of the child in more serious cases or if more acute symptoms are present (e.g. vomiting or diarrhoea).

## **What happens if my child is ill at home?**

Depending upon the symptoms you may have to consider excluding your child from the Preschool in accordance with our guidelines later in this document. Should your child be well enough to attend we do require you to notify us of any illness that has occurred. This ensures our team is able to monitor for any signs of reoccurrence or for unusual child behaviour. In extreme cases this will also ensure any symptoms of infectious diseases are picked up early and managed effectively.

## **Key Guidelines for Exclusion**

Based upon Health Protection Agency guidance and our recommendations we adhere to the following exclusion periods depending upon the symptoms and illness.

<b>Symptom's/ Illness</b>	<b>Exclusion</b>
Head Lice	None ( <b>Once treatment has been started</b> )
Conjunctivitis	None ( <b>Once treatment has been started</b> )
Tonsillitis	None
Roseola	None
Slapped Cheek	Until it has cleared and you child is well ( <b><i>Please look at Pregnant mother's section</i></b> )
Threadworms	None ( <b>Once treatment has been started</b> )
Hand, Foot and Mouth	<b>Until you child is well and rash has started to fade</b>
Vomiting	<b>48 hours</b> after last symptom
Diarrhoea	<b>48 hours</b> after last symptom
*Whooping Cough	<b>Min 5 Days</b> from commencing antibiotics
*German Measles	<b>Min 6 days</b> from onset of rash
*Measles	<b>Min 5 days</b> from onset of rash
*Mumps	<b>Min 5 days</b> after onset of swelling

Chicken Pox	<b>Until all the lesions have crusted</b>
Scabies	<b>Until fully treated</b>
*Scarlet Fever	Can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Ringworm	<b>Until on treatment</b>
Impetigo	<b>Until lesions have crusted over</b>

- **Notifiable Diseases** - There is a list of notifiable diseases which we have a legal obligation to report to the Health Protection Agency and Ofsted should a child within our care become infected. Some are named in this leaflet and are shown by a '\*' by the relevant illness. In these cases we work closely with you the parents, the HPA and Ofsted to ensure we follow any additional advice that may be given.

## **Information for Pregnant Mothers**

There are a number of infections which can be harmful to the unborn baby.

### **These include:**

- Chicken Pox
- \*German measles (Rubella)
- Slapped Cheek
- \*Measles

If you or your child has been at the Preschool when one of the above infections is present we advise you to see your GP/Midwife to check if you are immune and seek their professional medical advice. As a responsible childcare provider following advice from the Health Protection Agency we recommend that all children follow the 'Routine childhood immunisation programme'. This reduces the risk of exposure to children in our care of infectious diseases.

*(Please ask the preschool office for the relevant childhood immunisation leaflet if parents have not received in their welcome pack).*

*However, we are aware that the immunisation programme is not legislative.*

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

## **Medication Prescribed/ Non-Prescribed**

We are happy to administer the giving of medication if your child has been prescribed or you feel their need medication. All medication should be clearly labelled with the child's full name and DOB and has not expired its use by date. Please ensure you discuss with your child's group leader or manager about your child's illness, dosage & frequency and any possible side effects your child.

***No medication can be administered until parents have signed and completed our Administering Medication Form.***

## **Handling blood and other body substances**

### **Standard Precautions**

To minimise the risk of spread of infection, all blood and body substances should be treated as potentially infectious. The techniques used in handling these substances are known as standard precautions.

- Standard precautions are recommended in the handling of:
- blood, including dried blood
- all other body substances including saliva, urine and faeces (but excluding sweat), regardless of whether they contain visible blood
- broken skin
- Mucous membranes (lining of nose, mouth and genitals).

Standard precautions are good hygiene practices relating to hand hygiene, the use of gloves and other protective clothing (as appropriate), and the safe disposal of waste.

### **Managing exposure to blood or other body substances**

If any person has contact with blood or body fluids, the following procedures should be observed:

- Remove contaminated clothing.
- If blood or body fluids get on the skin, irrespective of whether there are cuts or abrasions, wash well with soap and water.
- If the eyes are splashed, rinse the area gently but thoroughly with water while the eyes are open.

- If blood or body fluid gets in the mouth, spit it out and rinse the mouth with water several times, spitting the water out each time.
- Incidents occurring at work should be reported immediately to the preschool leader or Deputy

## **Surface cleaning of blood and body substances**

If blood or body fluids are spilled on surfaces, the following cleaning procedures should be used:

- Deal with the spill as soon as possible.
- Protect yourself by wearing disposable rubber gloves. Eye protection and a plastic apron should be worn where there is a risk of splashing.
- Remove as much of the spill as possible with a paper towel.
- Clean area with warm water and detergent, using a disposable cleaning cloth or sponge.
- The area should be left clean and dry.
- Disinfect the area with a solution of household bleach, diluted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Remove and dispose of gloves, paper towel and cleaning cloth in a sealed plastic bag after use. The plastic bag may then be thrown away with household waste.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.

**This policy was reviewed and checked on:** November 2018

**Signed on behalf of the Pre-School:**

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**(Pre-School Director)**

**Next Review:**

November 2019