

Illness and Exclusion Policy

Policy Statement:

We provide care for healthy children and promote their health through identifying illness and allergies; we aim to prevent cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections by adhering to this policy. As the child's main carer, parents/authorized carers are expected to abide by this policy at all times by caring for their sick child away from the setting, communicating regularly with the staff team and by not putting others at risk of infection.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious:

- If your child is suffering from an illness, she/he must not attend the setting if they are symptomatic.
- If your child is absent from the setting due to sickness, it would be helpful if you could inform us of the type of illness, she/he might have, as other children may be experiencing similar symptoms, and this will enable us to keep a track on the situation.
- For more information on childhood illnesses and excludable diseases and current exclusion times, please refer to our Infectious Childhood Illnesses table. The table shows the symptoms, care needed and exclusion time from the setting as advised by the DHA.
- It is recommended that advice be sought from your family doctor as soon as possible in cases of suspected infections.
- If a child appears unwell during the day – has temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains particularly in head/stomach – the Nursery Manager/ Nursery Nurse or Key Person will call the parents and ask them to collect their child.
- After any periods of diarrhoea or vomiting, children are to be kept away from the nursery for at least 48 hours, this is to aid your child's recovery and protect the other children and adults accessing the setting, including staff members.
- No adult who is symptomatic with regards to an illness/infection must enter the setting to drop off, collect or care for children.
- A child's temperature is taken using a Digital thermometer.

- If a child has a temperature and the room is at normal temperature, they may be made comfortable at times by removing some clothing. It is wrong to wrap up a feverish child. The aim is to prevent overheating or shivering.
- If deemed necessary Adol will be given, this will be in line with our medicine management policy and only given if necessary and if this has been authorized by the parent/authorized carers.

Note: Adol does not treat the cause of the fever, it merely eases a child's discomfort therefore this should only be used if the child is showing signs of discomfort and distress.

- Fresh drinking water will be continuously offered to the feverish child as this helps to prevent dehydration.
- In extreme cases of emergency, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital and escorted by the Nursery Manager/ Lead Teacher/ Nursery Nurse.
- On the advice of Dubai Health Authority, we keep individual records of illnesses for both children and staff. In extreme cases of an infectious outbreak, we are expected to share children's details with the DHA, obviously in the interests of containment.
- If your child has been prescribed a course of antibiotics, she/he cannot be brought to the setting for 48 hours. After this time, if your child is well enough, they may return to the nursery. If necessary, the medication will continue to be administered by the Nursery Nurse. (See Administrating Medicines Policy)

Please note that we do not give any antibiotics unless it has been prescribed for your child.

- Full nursery fees will be charged during sickness absences.

Procedures for children with allergies:

- When parents start their child at the setting they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies during the paperwork visit, if there are any, this information is recorded upon the medical form and cascaded to the child's key person, the Nursery Nurse and the Nursery Manager.
- If a child has an allergy, an Allergy Alert form is completed detailing the following information:
 - The allergen (substance, material or living creatures such as nuts, eggs, bee stings)

- The nature of the allergic reactions (anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling and/or breathing problems)
 - What to do in case of an allergic reaction? (Medical treatment -- EpiPen) and how this is to be used?
 - Control measures (how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen?)
 - Review date
- This form is kept within the child's personal file and a copy is displayed on the information board of the child's class.
 - The Nursery Nurse/ the certified first-aid trained staff alone will administer any special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
 - Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting. We are a NUT FREE CENTER.

Procedures for reporting 'notifiable diseases':

- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable infectious disease, the Nursery Nurse/Nursery Manager of the setting will report this to Dubai Health Authority.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Nursery Manager also informs the KHDA and acts on any advice given by the Dubai Health Authority.
- If the Nursery Manager also feels there is an issue within the setting due to a high number of recorded sicknesses, she will notify and seek advice from the Dubai Health Authority and inform KHDA.

Procedures for Nits and Head Lice:

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.
- Staff cannot treat any child for head lice, and this is the responsibility of the parents.
- Staff will only check a child's hair if the child is demonstrating discomfort (itching, hair pulling) around the head/hair area.

- No child will be made to feel 'dirty' if head lice are suspected or detected.
- The child will not be identifiable to any other child or parents accessing the setting.
- Notice and guidance for treating will be sent out to all parents accessing the service following an infestation and the child involved will remain anonymous.

WHERE
LITTLE MINDS
BLOSSOM

