



Sickness, Illness and Infectious Disease Policy

Policy Statement

My policy is to ensure the safety of children in my care, promote good health, and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my childcare setting. While I am willing to look after children with minor coughs and colds, I cannot care for those who are very unwell, infectious, or have a consistently high temperature, as I must consider the welfare of all other children in my care.

Procedures (How I will put the statement into practice)

Children who are excluded from my setting due to sickness and/or diarrhoea will not be permitted to return until they have been symptom-free for 48 hours. This measure is to minimise the risk of infection transmission to other children, myself, or members of my household. It is essential that you inform me before arriving if your child has been ill or has taken any medication (including paracetamol) within the 48-hour period before I look after them. Please provide details of any medical advice received. This information must be shared even if the child no longer shows symptoms. Depending on the reason for the medication, I may not be able to accept your child until they are fully well.

Should your child become ill while in my care, I will promptly contact you via WhatsApp or phone call to keep you informed of the situation. I can administer one dose of Calpol sugar-free infant suspension (paracetamol) and will regularly monitor their wellbeing.. However, if there is no improvement within the hour or the child's condition worsens, I will request you to collect your child. I will always assess the situation first, but if your child becomes very ill quickly, I will ask for immediate collection. If you are unable to collect your child within an hour, please arrange for another suitable adult, preferably someone known to me or listed in your emergency contacts, to do so. Please note that I can only administer Calpol if there are visible signs or symptoms of illness.

If I or a family member contract a confirmed infectious disease, I will inform you as soon as possible. In the event that I am required to close and am unable to provide childcare services due to such circumstances, I will not charge you for the duration of the closure. Depending on the illness and its symptoms, there may be times when I am unable to offer childcare during or following a child's illness. Generally, I will refer to Health Protection Agency Guides to decide if an illness necessitates a child staying at home and for how long. However, I may also implement additional measures based on the specific circumstances of the illness.

If your child is absent due to illness, full fees will still be expected as I remain open for business. In the case where I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a notifiable disease identified in the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, I will act on advice from the Health Protection Agency and inform Ofsted of any actions taken. Additionally, I may implement my own measures based on the circumstances and nature of the illness if I deem it absolutely necessary. However, if I am forced to close due to a public health notice (for example, COVID-19), I cannot legally enforce payment for services I am unable to provide.



Please read the additional policy regarding additional measures for Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infection.

- Please read the additional policy regarding additional measures for Measles.
- Please read the additional policy regarding additional measures for Hand, Foot and Mouth.
- Please read the additional policy regarding COVID-19.

Please ensure you have read and understand the Sickness, Illness and Infectious Disease policy and procedure.

All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and updated when necessary.

This policy and procedure has been development in line with the EYFS welfare requirements and Ofsted guidance, and outlines the provider's responsibility to take all necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This policy and procedure has been written by **Miss Caitlin Smith**, the Ofsted-registered childminder responsible for the care of children at **The Flower Cottage**, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7TQ.