



ILLNESS AND INFECTION CONTROL

At Colourbox we promote the good health of all children attending through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread. We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) for schools and other child care settings as may be provided from time to time in relation to infection control for specific illnesses.

Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a contaminated person or surface. To help keep children and staff healthy and to minimise the spread of infection and illness, we do not expect staff or children to attend nursery if they are unwell. It is in the best interest of those who are sick to remain at home.

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery. Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this
- Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine
- Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed including when the children have placed it in their mouth
- Store toothbrushes hygienically to prevent cross-contamination and sterilise monthly.
- Immediately clean and sterilise any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week
- Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear or use shoe covers when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor
- Where applicable, wear specific indoor shoes or slippers whilst inside the rooms and make sure that children wear them as well
- Our nurseries are cleaned daily

If a child does become unwell, we will implement the following procedures to minimise the spread of infection:

- We will contact the parent/carer and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. If the parent/carer cannot be contacted or cannot arrive within half an hour then we will ask that one of your appointed Emergency Contacts collect the child
- Should your child have an infectious disease or illness, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours or following specific government guidelines. We place notices on our room doors to inform parents of illnesses
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is a previously prescribed medication as part of an ongoing care plan to treat a child's medical condition).
- We exclude all children with conjunctivitis for 48 hours and ask that parents seek advice and treatment from their doctor or pharmacy
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision can be taken by the Room Leader or Manager on Duty
- You are requested to regularly check your child's hair for head lice. If found, please contact your pharmacy for advice and treatment. Children cannot attend nursery until their hair has been treated and they cannot attend with treatment on their hair.

In addition:

- The nursery Manager retains the right of refusal of all children, parents, staff and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery
- Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned by an external company to ensure the spread of infection is limited
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times

If a child is seriously ill or in need of emergency treatment:

A member of staff will:

- Call for an ambulance immediately and inform the parent/carer of this action. We DO NOT transport children in our own vehicles
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child if the parents are not present when the ambulance takes the child
- Ensure that any information or belongings that the ambulance service require are provided
- Redeploy other staff and children so that the incident has a minimal impact on others and so that the area and people remain calm.
- Ensure that a Manager is aware of the incident immediately and that an Incident Report Form is completed the same day

Pandemic Procedure

In the event of a national or international pandemic, Colourbox will follow government guidelines and implement additional measures deemed necessary within a nursery setting.

Meningitis Procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, or if we are informed by Infection Control that one of our children has meningitis, the Nursery Manager will contact the Infection Control Nurse for the area. We will follow the guidance and advice given by the IC Nurse.

Infection Prevention and Control in Suffolk: 01473 770223