**Trinity Tots Nursery**

**Sickness and Illness Policy**

HSCS: 1.11, 3.21

At Trinity Tots Nursery we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults, they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.

**Our procedures**

In order to take appropriate action of children become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time, we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key worker, wherever possible

We follow the guidance on Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare Settings (Day Care and Childminding Settings) and the exclusion criteria from the ‘Childcare and Childminding Settings’ guidance on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox to protect other children in the nursery. This information is available at https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/248128/child-care-setting-infection-control-may-2018.pdf

Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We notify the Care Inspectorate as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with a notifiable disease such as food poisoning

We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection

We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 24 hours or three doses of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell). This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics

We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable

We have head lice leaflets readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children’s hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child’s hair.

**Covid-19 Procedure**

If anyone becomes unwell whilst at nursery with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, we will contact their parent/carer immediately. The child will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

Whilst the child is awaiting collection they will sit in the front foyer with a member of staff. The front door will be wedged slightly open for ventilation.

They will be comforted and reassured whilst waiting for collection, as per our usual policy.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use the Bumblebee bathroom. The Bumbebees will be in their garden to facilitate this. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected, using standard cleaning products, before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of two metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs.)

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive. They will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell.

Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left, will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. All cleaning will be carried out in line with https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members will self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their nursery group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

In these cases, all information will be recorded on an incident form or Covid-19 record form.

**Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Health Protection Team and the Care Inspectorate. The Health Protection Team will give guidance and support in each individual case. We will follow all guidance given and ensure that the appropriate authority is notified.

Health Protection Team – 0131 465 5420

Care Inspectorate – 0345 600 9527

**Transporting children to hospital procedure**

Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle

Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital

Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together

Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child’s comforter

Inform a member of the management team immediately

Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

If a child has an accident that may require hospital treatment but not an ambulance the parent(s) should be asked to pick their child up and take them to hospital. If the parents are unable to pick their child up in a timely manner that minimises the pain and distress to their child, then the child may be taken to hospital by a qualified senior member of staff using a black cab taxi.