

Les Enfants Nurseries

UNWELL CHILD POLICY

Author/ Designation	J E Lodge
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UNWELL CHILD POLICY

Introduction

The welfare of children in the care of Les Enfants Private Day Nursery Group is paramount. At the forefront of this is the aim to protect children from harm of any kind, including infection of disease.

It is recognised that young children are vulnerable to infection, especially very small babies. Every effort is made to ensure that cross infection is minimised, however, it is accepted that certain types of infection are unavoidable i.e. airborne infection.

Aims

It is the aim of this policy to make certain that a balance is struck between delivering the highest possible standards of care to our children and meeting the needs of busy working parents and members of staff.

Exclusion from nursery due to illness

Exclusions from nursery will only be requested under the following circumstances:

- The child presents with such severe symptoms and distress that their care needs cannot be adequately met within the nursery. Most children will request their parents/carers when unwell.
- The child has suffered an episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea within the last 48 hours (this means more than once instances of vomiting or diarrhoea).
- The child has a runny eye condition. Parents will be requested to have such symptoms diagnosed. If the symptoms are diagnosed as simply symptoms of cold-like illness, then attendance will continue to be permitted. Parents of children diagnosed as having conjunctivitis will be advised that their attendance should be suspended until the child is symptom free.

In the event of a child becoming unwell at nursery

- If a child develops an illness or becomes unwell at nursery, the parents/carers will be immediately informed.
- It is recognised that many of our children's parents/carers are at work and that it may not always be possible for immediate contact to be made.
- Advice should be taken from parents/carers if another adult e.g. Grandparent should be contacted in such circumstances.
- Where possible, extra staff should be made available to give the child any additional care required.
- Regular drinks of water should be encouraged.
- **In the event of a child receiving apparently serious injuries (including any loss of consciousness for even the shortest period) an ambulance should be summoned and parents/carers advised immediately.**
- All parents/carers have, when signing the contract, agreed for group staff to consent to treatment in their absence.
- The child's personal information file should accompany the child to hospital.

Follow-up in the event

Follow-up in the event of a child receiving serious injury or the nursery being notified of serious infection e.g. Meningitis

- Enquiries should take place as to the condition of the child. Get well greetings from the nursery staff and children may be appropriate.
- If the injury occurred at the nursery, a full investigation should take place. A report detailing the circumstances of the injury should be made available to Directors.
- OFSTED Regional Office and possibly the Health and Safety Executive (depending on the nature of the incident) should be informed.
- In the event of the group being informed that a child has a serious infectious illness, the local NHS Trust Infection Control Nurse will make contact. They will make available factual information and guidance.
- Parents/carers should be informed of the situation in a calm, sensitive and factual manner.
- Advice as to the appropriate action the group should take should be followed closely.

Advice and support to Staff

- Staff involved in an incident or accident should receive sensitive counselling in guidance with regard to their role in the occurrence.
- Staff should be given the same advice as parents/carers with regard to infectious disease. If attendance at their GP is required, this should be facilitated.
- Staff should not attend nursery if they know they are suffering from an infectious disease.
- Staff will be expected to care for children in the nursery, irrespective of the illness or chronic disease, in line with the group Inclusion Policy. If a member of staff refuses to carry out this duty of care, disciplinary action may be taken.