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***Health, Hygiene & Sickness Policy***

It is our policy to keep children safe when they are in our care, promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within our childcare setting and while we are off site.

**Procedures (how we will put the statement into practice)**

**Sick children**

If there is a child in our setting who becomes ill whilst in our care, or whom we believe has an infectious illness or disease (for example a severe cold or stomach upset) we will:

* Contact the parents as agreed to arrange for the immediate collection of the child
* Ensure the child is excluded from our setting until they have been well for 48 hours, or in accordance with Public Health England guidelines which can be viewed online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/522337/Guidance\_on\_infection\_control\_in\_schools.pdf

If we believe a child in our setting is suffering from a notifiable disease, identified as such in the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, we will act on advice given by the Health Protection Agency (details of which can be found at www.hpa.org.uk) and inform Ofsted of any action taken.

Whilst we are happy to care for children with minor coughs or colds we are unable to care for children who are very unwell, running a high temperature or have an infectious condition (see chart below). We will also keep a record of the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in our setting.

In accordance with the contract agreed with parents we expect to be paid for the child’s place even if they are excluded from our setting due to an illness or infectious disease.

If we, or one of the members of our family, has a confirmed infectious disease, we will inform parents as soon as we are able. As we will not be able to offer our childminding service we do not charge parents for the time the service is unavailable, as agreed in the contract.

We will inform the parents of the other children in our setting if a child we care for has a diagnosed infectious disease.

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| **Infectious Disease** | **Exclusion Period** |
| Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting | 48 Hours from last episode |
| Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease | Until the last lesion has crusted over |
| Conjunctivitis | 48 Hours after the start of treatment |
| Chicken Pox and Impetigo | Until the last lesion has crusted over |
| Whooping Cough | 5 Days after start of antibiotics |
| Mumps | 5 Days after the onset of swollen glands |
| Measles, Rubella | 5 Days after the rash has appeared |

**Hygiene**

We ensure all adults and children in our setting are aware of good hand-washing procedures, before eating or handling food and after using the toilet.

We ensure there is a supply of tissues available for children.

We immediately clean up any spillage of body fluids using a disposable cloth and gloves.

We wear disposable gloves for changing nappies. We will discard these gloves after each change.

We ensure that any animals on the premises are safe to be around children and do not pose a health risk.