



4a. Sickness and Illness

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At Step By Step Montessori Ltd 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 who 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 person, wherever possible
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (formerly the Health Protection Agency) in Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery¹
- 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 Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with 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 notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.
- We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours 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 make information/posters about head lice 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.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Infection Control (IC) Nurse for their area. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>



individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must 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
- 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.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>October 2020</i>	<i>Khadijeh Nauji</i>	<i>October 2021</i>



4b. Infection Control

At Step By Step Montessori Ltd 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 Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

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 person or surface contaminated with viruses.

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 above and 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
- Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day
- 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 dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child
- Provide 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
- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to stay at home if they are contagious.



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 including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus/ pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action, we will treat each case on an individual basis
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

Covid-19

We will continue to implement our infection control policy, through maintaining high hygiene standards and reducing the chances of infection being spread.

In addition to this we will:

- Implement robust handwashing routines with extra stations, where possible. Hands will be washed thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap, and dried thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub/sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- Clean hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- Encourage staff and, where age/stage appropriate, children not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose (consider face washing with children where appropriate)
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene - use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for all staff and children
- Ensure that help is available for children who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- Encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- Ensure that lidded bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach (including surfaces that children are touching, such as toys, books, tables, chairs, doors, sinks; wiping down toilets after each use, light switches, bannisters)
- Where possible, ensure spaces are well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
- Prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation
- Take steps to ensure symptomatic individuals do not attend nursery



- Minimise contact and mixing as much as possible (such as by staggered break/meal times, keeping staff and children in smaller consistent groups, ensuring that the same staff are assigned to each group as far as possible and keep children in the same rooms/areas/outdoor area throughout the day)
- Ensure play equipment is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously.

Children's temperatures

Routine testing of children's temperatures will not take place as per government guidelines. We remind parents and staff to follow national advice on Covid-19 symptoms. We ask all staff and parents to follow government advice if anyone in their household displays any symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Anyone showing signs of coronavirus are advised to not leave their home for at least 7 days and anyone they live with should not leave their home for 14 days. This will be applied for any child, staff or family members accessing nursery.

Staff and children in all early years' settings will be eligible for coronavirus testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households. A negative test will enable children to get back to childcare setting, and their parents to get back to work. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their peers and staff in their setting.

We will work with staff and families where testing is required to arrange for this as soon as possible and ensure isolation periods are followed for all staff and children effected. See more details regarding this at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

If a child has a high temperature whilst at nursery, parents will be called immediately. The child will be cared for in a separate room from the other children and the staff member will, in these cases, wear a face covering to minimise the spread of infection.

Travelling to nursery – Parents, children and young people are encouraged to travel by car, walk or cycle where possible and avoid public transport at peak times. Further information and posters can be found

at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884507/passenger-guidance-infographic-document.pdf

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