

04 Health procedures

**04.5 Poorly children**

* If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
* If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from draughts.
* A child’s temperature is taken and checked regularly, using an ear thermometer.
* In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
* Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
* After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
* Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
* The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
* If there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) the setting manager keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
* The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
* If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

# HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

* Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
* Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
* Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

# Nits and head lice

* Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
* On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

**\***Diarrhoea is defined as 2 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period. ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis))

**\*\*Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)**

Brightside Preschool cannot accept non-prescription medicines from parents to administer on a ‘just in case’ basis, however Brightside Preschool will keep Calpol on the premises for emergency use. Due to the risks of high temperatures to children, parents are given the option to provide consent to the setting to administer paracetamol-based medicine in the case of high temperature, on the basis that they are on their way to collect. Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of the setting for a normal day. A child who is not unwell and has a temperature will be kept cool and the parents asked to collect straight away.

*Whilst the brand name Calpol is referenced, there are other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief such as Nurofen for children over 3 months.*

**Further guidance**

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

Medication Administration Record (Early Years Alliance 2019)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency) <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf>