

Sickness and Illness of Children Policy

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The current version of any policy, procedure or guideline is the version held in the Knowledge Library on Workplace. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they are following the current version.

Sickness and Illness of Children

EYFS: 3.44, 3.45, 3.46

At YMCA Thames Gateway Group we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend our settings 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 their childcare settings 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 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
- We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) 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 our settings. This will include but is not exclusive of any child who has diarrhoea; their parents will be notified if their child has a minimum of two loose stools and asked to collect if their child has a third, whilst at one of our settings. This will be at the senior member of staff's discretion considering the prevention and spread of infection
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to us until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in one of our settings, 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 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 their child's setting so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

Meningitis procedure

If a parent informs us that their child has meningitis, the setting manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform us, 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 setting manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. Staff MUST NOT and DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we 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 can 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 senior 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 incident.

In the unfortunate event that a child has an accident/incident that may require hospital treatment but cannot get an ambulance quickly then the manager may decide that the child can be transported to hospital within a staff vehicle or an association minibus. If this decision is made then the following MUST be taken into account and followed:

- *Requesting permission from parents*
- *Ratio requirements of the setting being maintained*
- *The age and height of the child, in regard to will they need a car seat? Further guidance can be found at www.childcarseats.org.uk/types-of-seat/*
- *There are some exceptions for needing a child seat depending again on their age. Further guidance can be found at www.childcarseats.org.uk/the-law/cars-taxis-private-hire-vehicles-vans-and-goods-vehicles/#under-three*
- *With the fitting of the car seat, we also need to check that the individual has had training in carrying this out.*
- *Will need to check vehicle is covered under business insurance?*
- *Safeguarding of the child needs to be looked at. In certain situations, e.g. A designated member of staff should be appointed to plan and provide oversight of all transporting arrangements and respond to any difficulties that may arise. Wherever possible and practicable it is advisable that transport is undertaken other than in private vehicles, with at least one adult additional to the driver acting as an escort. Staff should ensure that their behaviour is safe and that the transport arrangements and the vehicle meet all legal requirements. They should ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and appropriately insured and that the maximum capacity is not exceeded*

- *Ensure Emergency procedures and plans are put in in place for example what happens if the child's health begins to deteriorate during the journey?*

This policy was adopted by	YMCA Thames Gateway Group
On	<u>10/02/2023</u>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<u></u>
Name of signatory	<u>Amanda Allen</u>
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	<u>Head of Family and Children's Services</u>

Policy review date	<u>10/02/2024 – on or before</u>
Name of reviewer	<u></u>
Signature of reviewer	<u></u>
Role of reviewer	<u></u>