



## **Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy**

At Clapham & Clapham Park Montessori we promote the good health (including oral health) of all the children in our care by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell (this includes, but is not limited to, having a temperature). If your child is unwell enough to need Calpol before coming to nursery, for example, then they are not well enough to attend. If a child is unwell it is in their best interests to be in a home environment rather than at nursery with their peers
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the nursery if they are unwell
- Helping children to keep healthy by providing balanced and nutritious breakfasts (for the 'early birds'), snacks and drinks
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning and hand washing processes
- Ensuring children have regular access to the outdoors and that the classrooms are well ventilated
- Having areas for rest and sleep, where required.

### **Our procedures**

In order to take appropriate action for children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during the nursery session, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time a member of staff (wearing PPE) cares for the child in a quiet, calm, area wherever possible
- We follow the guidance published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) for managing specific infectious diseases<sup>1</sup> and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. diarrhoea and vomiting, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery
- If a child is vomiting and/or has diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have not vomited or had diarrhoea for at least 48 hours
- 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 is reasonably practical, but in any event within 14 days of the incident, of any food poisoning affecting two or more children cared for on the premises.
- We ask parents to keep children who are on antibiotics at home for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z>

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 a senior member of staff on duty and is non-negotiable
- All parents are requested to check their children’s hair regularly. 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. A child need not be excluded from nursery if they have head lice. Staff will check themselves regularly for head lice and treat whenever necessary.

### **Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery 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 the nursery, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

### **We will follow the transporting children to hospital procedure in any cases where children may need hospital treatment**

The manager or staff member must:

- Inform one of the proprietors immediately
- Call 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, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- 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
- Re-deploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together or contacting some parents to ask them to collect their children 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.

This Illness and Infectious Diseases Policy should be read in conjunction with the Medication Policy and the Accident and First Aid Policy.

<b>Policy reviewed:</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery:</b>	<b>Date for next review:</b>
April 2026	Ros Bowles and Lucía Gómez-Santana	April 2027