

**Managing children who are sick, infectious or with allergies Policy**

**Statement**

The Life Nursery aim to provide care for all children through preventing cross infection of viruses, bacterial infections and promoting health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

**Procedure for children who are sick or infectious**

Children should not attend nursery if they are unwell. We will follow these procedures to ensure the welfare of all children within the nursery

* If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, their parents/carers will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. During this time the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area with a member of staff.
* If a child has a high temperature they will be kept cool by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from drafts. A temperature will be taken using an underarm thermometer which is kept in the first aid box.
* Should a child have an infectious illness, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they should not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours from the last bout of illness.
* It is vital that we follow the advice given to us by our registering authority (Department of Health) and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, chicken pox and slapped cheek to protect the other children in the nursery. Illnesses of this nature are very contagious and it is unfair to expose other children to the risk of an infection and may have a negative effect on the early stages of pregnancy in some cases.
* If a contagious infection is identified in the nursery, parents will be informed to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. All equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child will be cleaned and sterilised thoroughly to reduce the spread of this infection. Sand and water play will be removed from the area to prevent contamination.
* In the case of conjunctivitis, we ask parents to collect their child, visit the G.P or pharmacy and then administer the treatment before returning to nursery.
* We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times as part of this policy and is displayed on the parent information board.

**Reporting of ‘notifiable diseases’**

* If an adult or child is diagnosed with a ‘notifiable disease’ under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
* When the Life Nursery become aware or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, The Manager will inform Ofsted and contact the Public Health Agency and act on any advice given.
* If deemed necessary, The Manager or Deputy Manager MUST inform all parents/carers as soon as possible.

**Meningitis procedure**

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery Manager will contact the Infection Control Nurse and OFSTED. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents does not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.

**HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure**

HIV virus like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with bodily fluids are the same for all children and adults. The Life Nursery will:-

* Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
* Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit by using mild disinfectant solution and mops, any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
* Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

**Nits and Head Lice**

* Nits and headlice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases The Life Nursery may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
* On identifying cases of head lice, The Life Nursery will inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family.

**Procedures for children with allergies**

* When children start at The Life Nursery, we ask parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form.
* If a child has an allergy a risk assessment will be completed with the following details:-
* The allergen (ie the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats, dairy etc)
* The nature of the allergic reaction eg anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling and breathing problems
* What to do in case of an allergic reaction, any medication used and how it is to be used (eg Epipen)
* Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen
* Review our daily activities
* The risk assessment is kept in the children’ file and a copy displayed where staff can see it (ie kitchen).
* No nuts or nut products are used within The Life Nursery.
* Parents are advised (see snack policy) that no nuts or nut products are to be brought into nursery (ie party food or lunch boxes).

**Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities**

* If necessary, The Life Nursery insurance will include any children with any disabilities or allergies, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to. For children suffering life threatening conditions or requiring invasive treatments, written confirmation from The Life Nursery’s insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.
* At all times The Life Nursery ensures that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
* **Oral medication**
* Asthma inhalers are regarded as ‘oral medication’ by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to The Life Nursery’s insurance provider. Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP and have the manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
* The Life Nursery must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
* The Life Nursery adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
* The Life Nursery must have the parents/carers signed consent. This consent must be kept on file.
* **Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:**

These include adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

The Life Nursery must have:

* A letter from the child’s GP/consultant stating the child’s condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
* Written consent from the parent or carer allowing for The Life Nursery staff to administer medication; and
* The Life Nursery staff to have the appropriate training in the administration of such medication by the child’s GP, a district nurse, children’s nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse
* **A named person for special needs children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living eg. Breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc**
* Prior written consent must be obtained from the child’s parent or carer to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child’s GP
* The named person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or carers

**Transporting children to hospital procedure**

1. In extreme cases of an emergency the Manager or Deputy Manager will call for an ambulance and parents will be informed.
2. Staff of The Life Nursery WILL NOT attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle.
3. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, The Manager or Deputy Manager will contact the parent/carer and arrange to meet them at the nursery if possible, but if this is not possible, parents to meet the Manager or Deputy Manager at the hospital.
4. The Manager or Deputy Manager must accompany the child and collect together registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child’s comforter. A member of the Board of Directors must also be informed immediately.
5. Remain calm at all times.

In the event of an epidemic or pandemic – separate policies will apply with reference to government guidance

Reviewed by Louise Gray, Nursery Manager and Fran Edwards, Deputy Manager – September 2020

Policy read and agreed by:

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