Child Health, Sickness, Illness and Infection Prevention Policy

Policy Statement
Rooftops Montessori Nursery is committed to promoting and protecting the health, wellbeing and welfare of all children attending the nursery.

The nursery recognises that effective management of illness and infectious diseases is essential to:

- Protect children, staff and visitors from avoidable illness
- Reduce the spread of infection
- Promote children's physical and emotional wellbeing
- Maintain a safe learning environment
- Meet safeguarding responsibilities
- Comply with statutory health and safety requirements
- Support children's healthy development

The nursery will work in partnership with parents/carers, healthcare professionals and public health agencies to ensure children receive appropriate care and support when unwell.

The nursery aims to balance the needs of individual children with the responsibility to protect the wider nursery community from infectious disease.

Legislative Framework
This policy operates in accordance with:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (where applicable)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Guidance
- Health Protection in Education and Childcare Settings Guidance
- Relevant NHS and Department for Education guidance

Scope
This policy applies to:

- All children attending the nursery
- Parents and carers
- Employees
- Agency staff
- Students and volunteers
- Visitors and contractors where applicable

Promoting Good Health
The nursery promotes good health and wellbeing by:

- Encouraging good personal hygiene
- Promoting regular hand washing
- Supporting good respiratory hygiene
- Maintaining effective cleaning and infection control procedures
- Providing balanced and nutritious meals and snacks
- Ensuring children have regular access to outdoor play and fresh air

- Maintaining suitable ventilation within indoor environments
- Supporting healthy sleep routines
- Promoting oral health
- Sharing health promotion information with families
- Encouraging participation in national vaccination programmes

The nursery recognises that healthy children are better able to learn, develop and participate fully in nursery activities.

Responsibilities
The Registered Provider and Management Team Will:
- Monitor illness trends and outbreaks
- Ensure infection prevention measures are maintained
- Liaise with healthcare professionals where necessary
- Implement exclusion arrangements appropriately
- Ensure staff receive suitable training
- Maintain confidentiality
- Notify relevant agencies where required
- Monitor compliance with this policy

Staff Will:
- Monitor children for signs of illness
- Follow infection prevention procedures
- Report concerns promptly
- Maintain confidentiality
- Follow exclusion guidance
- Escalate safeguarding concerns appropriately
- Implement emergency procedures where necessary

Parents and Carers Will:
- Keep unwell children at home
- Inform the nursery promptly of illness or infectious diseases
- Follow exclusion requirements
- Provide accurate emergency contact details
- Keep medical information up to date
- Collect unwell children promptly when requested

Monitoring Children's Health
Staff will monitor children throughout the day for signs of illness, including:
- Raised temperature
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Persistent coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Rashes
- Signs of pain or discomfort
- Lethargy or unusual tiredness
- Reduced appetite
- Unusual behaviour or distress
- Signs of dehydration
- Symptoms associated with infectious diseases

Where concerns are identified, appropriate action will be taken promptly.

Procedures for Unwell Children
If a child becomes unwell whilst attending nursery:

- Staff will assess the child's condition
- A member of the management team will be informed
- The child will be cared for in a calm and comfortable environment
- Appropriate supervision will be always maintained
- Parents/carers will be contacted without delay
- The child may be separated from group activities where appropriate to reduce infection risks
- PPE will be used where required
- Records will be completed as necessary

Parents/carers will be expected to collect their child as soon as reasonably practicable where illness affects the child's ability to participate safely in nursery activities or where there is a risk of infection to others.

The nursery reserves the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell where attendance may adversely affect the child's wellbeing or present a risk to other children or staff.

Decisions will be based upon professional judgement, available information and current public health guidance.

Exclusion from Nursery
The nursery follows current UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance regarding exclusion periods for infectious diseases.

Children must remain away from nursery for the recommended exclusion period where applicable.

Sickness and Diarrhoea
Children must not return until they have been symptom-free for at least 48 hours.

Raised Temperature
Children should remain at home until they are well enough to participate in normal nursery activities.

Other Infectious Diseases – Please see our Infection Illness Exclusion Table

Exclusion periods for illnesses such as:
- Chickenpox
- Measles
- Mumps
- Scarlet Fever
- Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease
- Impetigo
- Whooping Cough
- Influenza

will be managed in accordance with current UKHSA guidance.

The nursery may seek advice from healthcare professionals or public health authorities where uncertainty exists.

Antibiotics and Medication
Where children are prescribed antibiotics for an acute illness, parents will be asked to keep their child at home for the first 48 hours of treatment where appropriate.

This allows:
- Initial treatment to take effect
- Monitoring of the child's response to medication
- Reduction of infection risks
- Appropriate recovery time

Exceptions may apply where medication forms part of an established care plan and the child is otherwise well enough to attend.

All medication will be administered in accordance with the nursery's Medication Policy.

Infection Prevention and Control
The nursery implements robust infection prevention measures including:

- Effective hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene ("Catch it, Bin it, Kill it")
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements
- Routine disinfection of equipment
- Appropriate use of PPE
- Good ventilation
- Safe waste disposal
- Food hygiene controls
- Infection control training
- Exclusion arrangements where necessary

Additional measures may be implemented during outbreaks.

Outbreak Management
Where multiple cases of illness occur within the nursery, management may:

- Seek advice from UKHSA or other health professionals
- Implement enhanced cleaning procedures
- Increase ventilation arrangements
- Monitor attendance and symptoms
- Inform parents and carers
- Introduce additional infection control measures
- Review risk assessments
- Maintain records of actions taken

The nursery will cooperate fully with public health authorities during any outbreak investigation.

Head Lice
The nursery understands that head lice are a common childhood condition. Staff are not permitted to physically check a child's hair for headlice, however, if it is apparent they have headlice, we will make a courtesy call to you. There is no requirement to collect your child earlier than normal, however your child/ren will need to be treated before they can come back into nursery. We do recommend treating the whole family.

Parents/carers are encouraged to:

- Check children's hair regularly
- Treat infestations promptly
- Inform the nursery where head lice are identified

Where appropriate, information may be shared with other families to encourage vigilance and reduce transmission.

Meningitis Procedure
If a parent/carer informs the nursery that their child has meningitis:

- Management will seek advice from the appropriate Health Protection Team
- Guidance from healthcare professionals will be followed
- Relevant authorities will be informed where required
- Parents/carers will be notified where appropriate
- Additional infection control measures may be implemented if advised

All actions will be undertaken sensitively and confidentially.

Serious Medical Emergencies
Examples of serious medical emergencies may include:

- Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis)
- Seizures
- Breathing difficulties
- Loss of consciousness
- Suspected meningitis
- Suspected sepsis
- Severe dehydration
- Serious injury
- Any life-threatening medical condition

In an emergency staff will:
- Inform management immediately
- Call 999 without delay
- Follow instructions from emergency services
- Administer first aid within their competence
- Contact parents/carers immediately
- Reassure and supervise the child
- Maintain appropriate staffing levels for remaining children

Staff will never transport a seriously ill child to hospital in a personal vehicle.

Hospital Transfer Procedure
Where a child requires hospital treatment:
- An appropriate member of staff will accompany the child if parents have not yet arrived
- Relevant medical information will accompany the child
- Emergency contact information will be provided
- Any medication or care plans will accompany the child where appropriate
- Staff will remain calm and reassuring throughout

Management will ensure appropriate staffing arrangements remain in place for the remaining children.

Safeguarding and Child Welfare
The nursery recognises that illness management and safeguarding are closely linked.

Staff will remain alert to situations where:
- A child repeatedly attends whilst unwell
- Medical treatment appears to be consistently delayed
- Health concerns are not appropriately addressed
- Patterns of illness raise wider welfare concerns
- Medical neglect may be suspected

Any safeguarding concerns will be managed in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Policy.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing
Information relating to a child's health, illness or medical condition will be treated confidentially.
Information will only be shared where necessary:
- To protect health and safety
- To support the child's care
- To meet safeguarding responsibilities
- To comply with legal obligations
- To support public health requirements

All records will be managed in accordance with UK GDPR and data protection legislation.

Training and Competency
Staff will receive appropriate training and information relating to:
- Infection prevention and control

- Recognising signs of illness
- First aid procedures
- Emergency response arrangements
- Medication administration
- Safeguarding responsibilities
- Exclusion guidance
- Hygiene procedures

Training needs will be reviewed regularly.

Monitoring and Review
The nursery will monitor the effectiveness of this policy through:

- Illness records
- Accident and incident records
- Infection trends
- Outbreak reviews
- Staff supervision
- Internal audits
- Parent feedback
- Regulatory updates

Corrective actions will be implemented where improvements are identified.

Policy Monitoring and Review
This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner following:

- Significant illness outbreaks
- Serious incidents
- Changes in legislation
- Changes in public health guidance
- Safeguarding concerns
- Lessons learned from incidents or investigations

Rooftops Montessori Nursery is committed to maintaining a healthy, safe and supportive environment where children's health and wellbeing are protected and always promoted.

Rooftops Montessori Nursery works with external advisors and internal leads to ensure safety standards are upheld.

Health and Safety Advisor:
Supply ME Ltd
support@supply-me.co.uk
0113 4790810

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually to ensure staff, children and visitor health, safety and welfare is continually promoted in the organisation.

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