

Sick Child Policy



Definition of a Well Child

A 'well child' is not reliant on **Paracetamol/Ibuprofen (Calpol/Nurofen)** or any other non-prescribed medication, does not have a high temperature, is well enough to participate in all setting activities, has a normal appetite, is happy and sociable, does not require a greater staff ratio and has normal bowel function.

If a child does not meet the above definition then they are deemed unwell and should not be at the setting.

Aim

It is our aim and duty at Viking Junior Academy to ensure that we encourage, promote and help our children / young people, staff and visitors to stay healthy and safe. The health and well being of both the children in our care and our setting staff and visitors remains paramount at all times.

Procedures & Controls

In order to meet our aim we have strict policies and procedures in place to help control and minimise the spread of infection, as we have a duty to maintain a safe environment for both children and staff.

- We expect that children are fully vaccinated in accordance with the government's health policy and their age before starting the setting and we ask that parents keep setting staff informed and updated with regards to their child's immunisation details.
- Parents and setting staff are given an outline copy of the settings full Sickness Policy upon starting the setting, this ensures that everyone is clear on the setting's expectations and procedures and agree to adhere to them at all times. A full version is available on the notice board at the setting at all times.
- The setting maintains a high standard of hygiene practices, which all setting staff adheres to at all times
- Parents and staff are informed about contagious illnesses including their exclusion periods and are asked to adhere to them.
- To minimise the spread of infection any child who exhibits signs of illness will be refused admission to the setting. This decision will be taken by the manager/deputy manager on duty and is non-negotiable to the setting.
- **Up to date emergency contact details of all children are kept to ensure setting staff are able to contact the children's parents/carers in the event that their child needs to be collected from the setting due to illness. Parents must notify the setting of any changes to contact details, even if they are only temporary changes.**

- *Setting staff will not administer medication, unless, it has been prescribed by a doctor or alternative medical practitioner. If a child is reliant on or requires non-prescribed / over the counter medication it is clearly a sign that they are unwell and therefore should not attend the setting.

***The only exception to this statement will be if a child becomes unwell at the setting and develops a temperature, in this situation and only on the condition that prior consent from the child's parents/carers has been obtained (either verbally by telephone or by the completion of an individual Consent Form) will a qualified member of the team administer the recommended dosage of Calpol or alternative named medication to assist in reducing the temperature.**

- If the setting feels the child would benefit from medical attention rather than non-prescription medication, we reserve the right to refuse the settings care until the child is seen by a medical practitioner.

- If a child is considered to have a contagious /infectious illness setting staff will follow the guidelines and guidance given by:
 1. Essex Health Protection Unit in their document entitled "Communicable Disease in Schools /Nurseries and Centres for the Under Fives"
 2. The document entitled "A-Z of Child Health" produced by Practical Pre-School
 3. NHS help line / information centre.
 4. RIDDOR – Health and Safety Executive
- Parents will be notified when a contagious/infectious illness is present within the setting and will be given any additional information they may require, such as signs and symptoms and exclusion periods.
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to the setting until they have been clear for at least 48 hours. 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 inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the setting, 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
- If a child is issued with antibiotics due to illness they must be excluded from the setting until they have received at least 48 hours of treatment (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 settings 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.
- If a child requires prescribed medication to be administered at the setting then the setting's "**Medication Policy and Procedure**" is followed.
- In the event that a child becomes ill whilst at the setting the procedure for "**When a child becomes ill/unwell at setting**" will be followed

Many of the most common illnesses that children can have are listed below with an outline of the exclusion period from the setting. Further details can be found in the full policy located on the setting notice board.

Sickness & Diarrhoea

If a child has had sickness and or diarrhoea then they must be excluded from the setting until they have been clear of sickness and or diarrhoea for at least 48 hours since their last bout. Their return to the setting will then be subject to them being well in themselves and having eaten a normal meal without any sickness or loose motion.

Conjunctivitis

If a child is confirmed to have contracted Conjunctivitis they should be issued with antibiotic ointment or drops by a Doctor and will therefore need to be excluded from the setting until they have received at least 48hrs of treatment. The full course of antibiotics must be completed even if the infection appears to have cleared up, setting staff will follow the settings 'Medication Policy and Procedure' if drops/ointment are needed to be administered at the setting.

Chicken Pox

Chicken Pox is a viral illness, which generally causes a fever, and a blistering rash.

If a child has contracted Chicken Pox they must be excluded from the setting until all the scabs are dry – usually 5-7 days after the appearance of the rash.

Once a case of Chicken Pox has been confirmed the setting has a duty to inform remaining parents, carers and staff.

Coughs & Colds

The setting understands that from time to time all children suffer from the effects of the common cold or sore throat. Generally in these circumstances the setting does not ask for children to be excluded from the setting, unless they are clearly un-well in themselves and reliant on medication in which case they should not be at the setting until they have fully recovered.

High Temperature

If a child has had a temperature (which exceeds the normal body temperature of 37°C /98.6°F) and requires regular doses of Calpol or similar medication during the day to reduce the temperature then they should not attend the setting until their body temperature has returned to normal, as a temperature is most often an early indicator that the child has an infection.

If a child develops a high temperature whilst at the setting parents/carers are contacted for confirmation that Calpol/alternative medication can be administered to reduce the temperature, (in the circumstances where parents are unable to be contacted straight away and the setting does have prior consent to administer the recommended dose of medication). The child's temperature is then monitored to ensure it reduces, if the child's temperature continues to rise or fails to reduce back to 'normal', parents are then contacted to collect their child. During which time practitioners make every effort to keep the child as cool as possible; by removing layers of clothing and applying a cool flannel to the neck/forehead area.

Rashes

If a child develops a rash before they are due to attend the setting we require parents/carers to seek medical advice to confirm that it is not contagious, or harmful to others. The setting has the right to refuse entry to any child who exhibits any kind of rash that has not been examined by a medical professional. Unfortunately rashes accompany many illnesses and conditions and appear for a number of different reasons, the majority of the time they are not of concern. However setting practitioners are not qualified medics and are therefore not able to give a diagnosis. In order for the setting to ensure the health and safety of others, practitioners must feel confident that the rash is not at all contagious or harmful.

Communicable Diseases

The setting has a duty to notify any case of a Communicable Disease to Local Authority Proper Officers under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988. A full list can be found in the main policy document.

If a child becomes unwell or exhibits any symptoms associated with any of the conditions listed above whilst at the setting their parents/carers will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child or to seek advice from a medial professional. Whilst the child is waiting to be collected staff will observe the child closely and ensure they are kept as comfortable as possible until their parents/carers arrive.

All conditions are treated as being contagious until confirmed otherwise by a medical professional therefore all members of staff involved with the child ensure the highest level of hygiene is maintained and follow the guidance set out in the settings “Hygiene Procedures”.