

Health, Illness and Emergency

It is Stepping Stones policy to encourage and promote good health and hygiene for all the children in our care. This includes monitoring the children for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, meningitis, hepatitis, diarrhoea, vomiting and fevers of 101°f/38°c or over.

To ensure the health and welfare of the sick child and in the interests of the other children attending, if the staff believe a child is ill, the parent/carer will be contacted and requested to collect their child immediately.

Staff at Stepping Stones must be confident that the child is healthy before re-admitting him/her.

In the case of a serious accident or illness the parent/carer will be contacted immediately and appropriate action taken. In the unlikely event of the parent not being available the child's emergency contact will be called. If neither are available the senior staff member will assume charge and if necessary accompany the child to hospital with all relevant details.

The following procedures will be followed in the event of:-

Major Accident

At all times the staff *must* wear protective clothing (disposable aprons and gloves).

- The manager will assess the situation and decide whether the child needs to go to hospital immediately or whether the child can wait for the parent/main carer to arrive.
- If immediate hospital treatment is required an ambulance will be called. The parent/main carer will be contacted and arrangements will be made to meet the parent/main carer at the hospital. A member of staff will accompany the child to the hospital.
- If immediate hospital treatment is not required the parent/main carer will be contacted and the child will be made as comfortable as possible. A member of staff will stay with the child until the parent/main carer arrives.

- It will then be for the parent/main carer to decide whether the child requires hospital treatment.
- An accident report form will then be completed.

Minor Accident

At all times the staff *must* wear protective clothing (disposable aprons and gloves).

- The injury is assessed by the key worker and if necessary the manager is called.
- The injury is then treated.
- The child is then resettled back into Stepping Stones, and observed.
- The incident is recorded in the accident book and the parent/carers is asked to sign and given a copy should they require one.

The accident book is regularly checked by the manager for accident patterns.

Illness Procedure

- Stepping Stones has the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager and is non-negotiable.
- If a child becomes ill during the nursery school day, their parents / carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child immediately. While waiting for parent/carers to arrive the child will be cared for in a quiet, calm area away from other children.
- If a child has an infectious disease, such as an eye/ear infection or sickness and diarrhoea, the Health Protection Agency exclusion policy should be followed.
- We abide by the advice provided by our registering authority and exclude specific contagious conditions, e.g. Sickness and diarrhoea and chicken pox, to safeguard the other children attending. Such illnesses are extremely contagious and it is unreasonable to expose other children to the risk of infection

- In the event of a contagious infection at Stepping Stones, parents will be informed via signs. Advice leaflets may also be distributed to assist parents in recognizing the early signs of 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

Meningitis Procedure

If a parent informs Stepping Stones that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager must contact the area Infection Control Nurse and Ofsted. The Infection Control Nurse will provide guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform Stepping Stones, we will be contacted directly by the Infection Control Nurse and the appropriate support will be given.