Suggestions for Illness and Infection Policy

Registered childcare providers must have a procedure that is discussed with parents/carers for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action if children are ill (The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements 3.44).

Everyone’s practice is different. Not all of these points will apply and you may wish to add some of your own. Your policy must reflect your everyday practice.

- Do you suggest that if the child is unwell, the parents keep them at home? However happy the child is at your setting when well, when poorly s/he will be much happier with family.
- Do you also suggest that if the child becomes unwell during the day you will contact the parent/carer and it may be necessary for them to collect the child? If this happens, do you reassure the parents that you will keep the child as comfortable as possible until they arrive?
- If the child has sickness or diarrhoea do you insist that they must not return until 48 hours after the last bout in order to prevent the spread of infection to others?
- How do you ensure that all others in your setting are kept as free as possible from infection? Do you state that children with infectious illnesses must not attend? Examples of infectious illnesses include mumps, chicken pox, measles and conjunctivitis.
- Do you offer parents/carers the chance to consult you if they are not sure if your child’s symptoms mean that they need to stay at home? You may suggest that parents can check infectious diseases at http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionControl/1004GuidanceonInfControlinSchoolsandChildCare/
- Do you state that children with a notifiable disease must not attend until they have been cleared by their GP? Parents can check with their GP or Health Visitor if they are not sure if an illness is notifiable.
- Will you inform parents / carers if any other child or adult in the setting has an infectious or notifiable illness?

Review Date

Thank you for accessing information through Childminding UK. We would appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to go to this link https://goo.gl/forms/MY8JpJSVu4yg6Rhm2 and complete the questionnaire to show what you thought of your experience. Your feedback will help us to ensure that we offer the best service possible.