



## Children's Illness/Infection Policy

(EYFS Updated - September 2025)

**Policy Statement:** At Bright Beginnings, we prioritise the health, safety, and well-being of all children, staff, and visitors. Our Illness/Infection Policy complies with the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, September 2025) guidelines, ensuring proactive management to prevent the spread of illness and infection.

### Health and Hygiene Practices:

- We actively promote robust health and hygiene habits, including thorough handwashing, proper respiratory etiquette, and hygienic disposal of tissues.
- Regular handwashing is reinforced before eating, after toileting, and after contact with bodily fluids.

### Sick Child Exclusion:

- Children displaying symptoms of illness or infection will be required to stay at home until fully recovered or the exclusion period recommended by healthcare guidelines has passed.
- Parents are asked to keep their child at home if symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, persistent cough, rash, or infectious illness are observed.
- Parents must inform the nursery staff promptly of any contagious disease diagnosis.

### Isolation and Comfort:

- Any child showing signs of illness while in care will be gently isolated from others to prevent potential spread.
- A comfortable, quiet, and supervised area will be provided for the ill child until parent/guardian collection.

### Notification of Parents:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately if their child becomes unwell during care hours.
- Prompt collection of the sick child by parents/guardians will be required to facilitate appropriate care and limit infection spread.

### **Medical Attention and Medication:**

- Immediate medical assistance will be sought if a child's condition necessitates urgent attention, with parents/guardians notified promptly.
- Medication for ongoing health conditions will be administered according to clear parental instructions, aligning with our Medication Administration Policy and EYFS guidance.

### **Return to the Nursery Setting:**

- Children may return only when symptom-free and meeting guidelines established by health authorities or professional healthcare advice.
- Return criteria will follow EYFS and local health authority recommendations to ensure child and community safety.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection:**

- A rigorous cleaning and disinfection schedule is maintained, prioritising high-touch surfaces and shared resources to prevent cross-infection.
- Appropriate, safe, and effective cleaning products will be utilised consistently.

### **Documentation and Records:**

- Accurate records of illnesses/infections, including symptoms, onset dates, actions taken, and communications with parents/health authorities, are meticulously kept.
- Mandatory reporting of contagious illnesses to local health authorities will comply with statutory requirements.

### **Communication and Collaboration:**

- Regular updates and clear communication will be maintained with parents regarding infection prevention strategies and illness management procedures.
- Collaboration with local health authorities ensures adherence to current infection control recommendations.

### **Review and Monitoring:**

- This policy will undergo annual reviews or more frequently as required, ensuring ongoing alignment with EYFS standards, legislative updates, and best practices.
- Feedback from staff, parents, and health professionals will inform continuous improvement in our illness and infection control procedures.

### **Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

- The policy incorporates EYFS 2025 revisions, emphasizing preventive healthcare, robust hygiene practices, transparent communication, and stringent infection control standards.

Signed: Marie D'Arcy

Date: 1/9/2025