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Document.	C0050	Child sickness			
Revision	02	Approved By	Katy Taylor	Approval Date	03/02/2026

Sick Children

If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea* and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then a senior member of staff calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.

If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from draughts.

A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using an ear thermometer.

For children who have a fever, (a temperature over 38 degrees), the parents/carers will be called for permission to give the child emergency Calpol, this is to lessen the risk of febrile convulsions. The parents/carers will then be required to pick the child up. This medication will be given to the child following the policy for managing medicines.

In an emergency an ambulance is called, and the parents are informed.

Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.

A child should be kept off from preschool if they need constant comfort from an adult.

After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.

Some activities such as sand and water play, \and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.

The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.

The setting manager notifies the trustees if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.

The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.

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If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

HIV/AIDS procedure

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C), are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/slucing clothing after changing.

Soiled clothing is rinsed and double bagged for parents to collect.

Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.

Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.

On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

*Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis

*****Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)***

Children who have had medicine to bring down a high temperature before coming to preschool will not be able to attend as this can mask symptoms of other illnesses. Duchy preschool cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis unless there is an immediate reason for doing so.

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Whilst the brand name Calpol is referenced, this includes other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief such as Nurofen for children over 3 months.

Further guidance

Please also refer to our Exclusion Policy

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](#) (Alliance Publication)

[Medication Administration Record](#) (Alliance Publication)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

Responsibility for periodic review	Development Sub-committee
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Document History

Rev	Changes	Date	Approval
00	Policy created.	30.09.24	Katy Taylor
01	Changes to Calpol policy for babies	12/09/25	Katy Taylor
02	Changes to Calpol for all children with fever	03/02/26	Katy Taylor
03			
04			

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