



Policy - Sickness

Title: Sickness

Category: Illnesses Accidents and Incidents

Review Date: 1st Sep 2025

Description:

At Bunnikins, I am committed to ensuring the health and well-being of every child in my care. If a child is unwell, they are generally better cared for at home, where they can rest and recover. This policy sets out the procedures I follow to reduce the spread of infection and ensure appropriate care for children who become ill, in line with EYFS 2025 guidelines and Public Health advice.

1. Exclusion Due to Illness

Minor Coughs and Colds

I am able to care for children with mild symptoms, such as minor coughs or colds, provided they are comfortable and well enough to participate in daily activities.

Infectious or High Temperature

Children showing high fever or signs of significant illness/infection will not be admitted, to safeguard both the unwell child and others in the setting. I am unable to care for children who require Calpol or other temperature-reducing medication, as these may mask underlying health issues. In these incidences Children must be kept at home until 48 hours after the last high fever and/or dose of temperature-reducing medication.

Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting

As recommended by Public Health Agency guidelines, any child who has experienced diarrhoea or vomiting must be kept at home until 48 hours after the last episode.

2. Illness Developing While in My Care

If a child becomes unwell during the day:

I will make them comfortable, isolating them from other children if necessary and safe to do so.

I will contact you immediately, explaining the symptoms and asking you to collect your child as soon as possible.

While the child is awaiting collection, I will reassure and monitor them closely to ensure they remain comfortable.

3. Medication Administration

I am happy to administer certain medications (e.g. antibiotics, teething gel), in line with my Medicine Policy.

Important: I cannot accept children who require Calpol or other fever-reducing medicines, as per the guidelines above.

4. Childminder Illness

Minor Ailments

If I have a minor condition (e.g. mild cold), I may continue to work, provided I can offer the standard of care your child deserves.

Infectious Symptoms

If I experience sickness, diarrhoea, or another highly contagious illness, I will exclude myself from work in line with Public Health Agency guidelines to minimise infection spread.

Notification

I will inform you as soon as possible (typically the night before or early in the morning) if I am unable to work due to illness.

Alternative Childcare

If you require emergency cover during my absence, please let me know. I can contact another registered childminder on Westvale Park to see if they can assist.

5. Childminder's Own Children

If one of my own children becomes unwell, I will inform you of:

- Their symptoms/illness
- Whether I am able to continue working that day
- You can then decide whether you wish to bring your child, based on an informed decision about potential exposure to illness.
- If you require emergency childcare, please discuss this with me. I can attempt to make arrangements with another childminder on Westvale Park.