

INFECTION CONTROL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. At RAFA Kidz we promote the good health of all children attending. To help keep children healthy and minimise infection, we do not expect children to attend nursery if they are unwell. If a child is unwell it is in their best interest to be in a home environment with adults they know well rather than at nursery with their peers.
- 1.2. Viruses and infections can be easily passed from person to person by breathing in air containing the virus which is produced when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through hand/face contact after touching a person or surface contaminated with viruses. We maintain high hygiene standards to reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities guidance which sets out when and how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment/medication is required and where to get further advice from.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all RAFA Kidz settings. Parents / carers, visitors and staff should not attend the setting if they are unwell or infectious.

3. PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. The setting will not care for sick children who should be at home until they are well enough to return.
- 3.2. We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by the manager on duty and is non-negotiable
- 3.3. We follow the guidance given to us by Public Health England (Health Protection In Schools and other Childcare Facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the nursery.
- 3.4. Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery until they have been clear for at least 48 hours.
- 3.5. We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics

4. SICKNESS AND ILLNESS PROCEDURES

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- 4.1. If a child becomes ill during the nursery day, we contact their parent(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible. During this time we care for the child in a quiet, calm area with their key person, wherever possible.
- 4.2. We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the nursery, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection.
- 4.3. We notify Ofsted as soon as possible and in all cases within 14 days of the incident where we have any child or staff member with food poisoning.
- 4.4. We exclude all children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell) This is because it is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics.

5. HEADLICE

We make information/posters about head lice readily available and all parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform the nursery so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

6. MENINGITIS PROCEDURE

If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, the nursery manager will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform the nursery, we will be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support will be given. We will follow all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted if necessary.

7. TRANSPORTING CHILDREN TO HOSPITAL PROCEDURE

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- 7.1. Call for an ambulance immediately if the sickness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- 7.2. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- 7.3. Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- 7.4. Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter

7.5. Inform a member of the management team immediately

7.6. Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

8. HYGIENCE PROCEDURES

We follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from moving around the nursery. Our staff:

8.1. Encourage all children to use tissues when coughing and sneezing to catch germs

8.2. Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of

8.3. Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy

8.4. Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when changing nappies, toileting children and dealing with any other bodily fluids. Staff are requested to dispose of these in the appropriate manner and wash hands immediately

8.5. Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use

8.6. Clean toilets at least daily and check them throughout the day

8.7. Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, playing outside or being in contact with any animal and explain the reasons for this

8.8. Clean all toys, equipment and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser or through washing in the washing machine

8.9. Wash or clean all equipment used by babies and toddlers as and when needed including when the children have placed it in their mouth

8.10. Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children

8.11. Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination

8.12. Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child

8.13. Provide labelled individual bedding for children that is not used by any other child and wash this at least once a week

8.14. Ask parents and visitors to remove all outdoor footwear or use shoe covers when entering rooms where children may be crawling or sitting on the floor

- 8.15. Periodically each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier if the need arises
- 8.16. The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times and increased during the winter months or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

Date Originated	MAY 2019	Signature
Date Reviewed		