



Illness Policy

The Ark promotes a healthy lifestyle and high standards of hygiene. The aim of this policy is to ensure that all reasonable practical steps are taken to ensure the health and wellbeing of children, staff and parents of The Ark. We follow government guidelines which are set out in the document “Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings” published by Public Health England.

- Staff are required to stay off work for appropriate lengths of time, depending on job role and type of illness
- Cuts or open sores, whether on children or adults, will be covered with sticking plaster or an alternative suitable dressing (subject to parental permission)
- Children are encouraged to blow and wipe their noses when necessary and to dispose of the tissues appropriately
- Hands will always be washed before handling food and after using the toilet
- We will ensure that parents and staff are informed of any illness, where appropriate by use of e-mail, notices etc.

What do we ask parents / carers to do?

- Keep at home any children suffering from an infection (other than colds) or who are not well enough to participate in a day at nursery
- Administer any antibiotic treatment to their child and keep them away from nursery until 24 hours after the first application / dose is given
- Inform nursery staff if their child has not been themselves at home but is not showing any signs of illness when you bring them in. At this time it is helpful to confirm any specific contact details for that day
- Inform the nursery of an infection in order that other parents may be informed as necessary by way of notices, letters etc
- Refer to the ‘Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings’ document in order to confirm the length of exclusion for specific illnesses – provided in all parent welcome packs
- Inform the nursery, as soon as possible, in the event of head lice and will be asked to administer appropriate treatment immediately. Other parents will be informed by way of notices, letters etc.

How we deal with unwell children at The Ark

- If a child arrives at The Ark with an symptoms described in the government guidelines, or is clearly unwell, we will be unable to provide care for that day. Please refer to the 'Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings' document to confirm the length of exclusion
- If a child becomes ill through the day and is unable to cope with the nursery routine, we will monitor them and take all precautionary action e.g. take temperature. We will phone the parent/carer to appraise them of the situation and keep them informed. If the child is no better, we will phone the parent/carer and ask them to collect the child if need be, or take any further action that is required
- If a child becomes seriously ill we will phone the parent/carer immediately and if necessary use first aid and/or phone an ambulance. If the parent/carer is not available the emergency contact will be used. If we do not manage to contact any of these people and an ambulance is necessary then a qualified staff member will accompany the child to hospital, taking with them all available information.