nestlingshereford@gmail.com – 01432674175
www.littlenestlings.co.uk

EXCLUSION POLICY

At Little Nestlings we promote the good health of all children attending (including oral health) through maintaining high hygiene standards to help reduce the chances of infection being spread. We follow the health guidelines supported by the NHS, as well as other schools and setting, 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.

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 follow the guidance below to prevent a virus or infection from spreading around the nursery:

Our staff:

- Encourage all children to use tissues or 'catch that cough' when coughing and sneezing to stop germs.
- Ensure all tissues are disposed of in a hygienic way and all children and staff wash their hands once the tissue is disposed of
- Develop children's understanding of the above and the need for good hygiene procedures in helping them to stay healthy.
- 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.
- Clean and sterilise all potties and changing mats before and after each use.
- Clean toilets daily and check them frequently throughout the day, cleaning more when required.
- Remind children to wash their hands before eating, after visiting the toilet, and playing outside and explain the reasons for this.
- Clean all toys, equipment, and resources on a regular basis by following a comprehensive cleaning rota and using antibacterial cleanser and steam cleaner, or through washing in the washing machine.
- Wash or clean all equipment used by the children as and when needed, including when the children have placed it in their mouth.
- Store dummies in each individually named tubs to prevent cross-contamination with other children.
- Store toothbrushes (where applicable) hygienically to prevent cross-contamination.
- Immediately clean and sterilise (where necessary) any dummy or bottle that falls on the floor or is picked up by another child.
- Provide individual sleep sheets for children that are not used by any other child and are washed after use.
- Baby room – staff, children and visitors do not wear shoes in the main room to prevent spread of germs on floor where children are crawling and playing.

- Follow the sickness and illness policy when children are ill to prevent the spread of any infection in the nursery. Staff are also requested to follow the same guidance and stay at home if they are ill and/or are contagious.

In addition:

- The nursery team retains the right to refuse of all children, parents, staff, and visitors who are deemed contagious and may impact on the welfare of the rest of the nursery.
- Parents will be made aware of the need for these procedures in order for them to follow these guidelines whilst in the nursery.
- Each room in the nursery will be deep cleaned periodically, including carpets and soft furnishings to ensure the spread of infection is limited. This will be implemented earlier than planned if the need arises.
- In the event of an infection outbreak the nursery will, where appropriate, undertake a deep clean to ensure the spread of infection is contained.
- We will follow Government health guidance, as well as seeking legal advice and information from our insurers, on any national outbreak of a virus/ pandemic and keep parents informed of any course of action. Each specific circumstance will differ and to ensure we take the most appropriate action; we will treat each case on an individual basis. It is our policy in a confirmed case of Covid, children will be required to stay away from nursery for a minimum of 3 days following the positive test result to protect other families as well as staff and their families.
- In addition, where contagious outbreaks occur, we will adopt Government guidance for all visitors to minimise the risk of further spreading of the infection.
- The nursery will ensure stocks of tissues, hand washing equipment, cleaning materials and sterilising fluid are maintained at all times. These will be increased during the winter months, or when flu and cold germs are circulating.

Whilst the majority of our exclusion guidelines are dictated by the NHS, our exclusion periods for hand, foot and mouth, conjunctivitis, COVID, and antibiotics are decided by the setting, due to many years' experiences of seeing the illnesses and the consequences when they infect through an entire room. Protecting all members of our nursery family from children and staff, to wider families at home is very important to us, and these exclusions have been put in place to ensure the wellbeing of all.

This policy was adopted on	**Signed on behalf of the nursery**	**Date for review**
October 2026	*Elizabeth Ross-Whittall*	*October 2027*

I confirm I have read, understood, and accept this policy: YES NO
Signed:

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The Table below outlines details of periods children must be kept away from nursery for infections and illnesses:

Infection or complaint	**Period to be kept away from nursery**
Chickenpox	Until all spots have crusted over – minimum of 5 days
German measles	4 days from the onset of the rash
Hand foot & mouth	3 days or until spots are not weeping or spreading
Impetigo	48 hours after antibiotics or when sores have fully crusted over
Ringworm	24 hours following the onset of treatment
Scarlet fever	48 hours after antibiotics
Slapped cheek	Nursery to be informed due to danger around pregnancy
Covid- 19	3 full days following positive test result
Vomiting	48 hours from the last episode
Diarrhoea	48 hours from the last episode Children are sent home after two loose bowel movements – if no more loose movements happen after the individual goes home then the setting should be contacted to see if the 48 rule should apply, or if they are able to come in, with the knowledge that if another loose bowel movement were to happen, they would be sent home again for the full 48 hours.
Flu	Until child feels well enough
Whooping cough	5 days from starting antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness
Conjunctivitis	24 hrs of eye drop medication if required and child well/happy in themselves
Meningococcal meningitis	Until recovered
Tonsillitis	Until child is feeling well enough
Temperatures	Child will be sent home if temperature reaches above 38°C, and cannot return until temperature is stable below this without relying on medication
New antibiotics	Child must have been on antibiotics for 24 hours before attending to ensure there is no reaction