

Illness and Infection Control Procedure

It is my policy to keep children safe when they are in my care, to promote good health and to take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my childcare setting.

Can children attend Little Feet Daycare when they are ill?

I am willing to care for children with minor coughs and colds to attend but I will not be able to care for children who are unwell, infectious or have a high temperature; I must consider the welfare of all other children in my care.

Depending on the illness and its symptoms, I may or may not be able to provide childcare during/following a child's illness. I will, generally, use government's [Health Protection Agency Guidelines](#)* to determine whether an illness warrants a child staying at home and for how long.

*Please note that the HPA guidance is broadly aimed at school-aged children. I reserve the right to ask that a child stays at home even if no isolation period is specified, should I believe that an infection may spread due to a child's age, level of physical contact and/or personal hygiene capabilities.

Examples of such infections may include, but are not limited to: cold sores, conjunctivitis, croup, head lice, or hand, foot and mouth, etc.

I will also not be able to accept a child who isn't well enough to join in with our daily activities or who needs additional one-to-one attention, as this will affect the care given to other children in the setting.

What are the guidelines regarding sickness and/or

All children in my setting who are excluded due to having sickness and/or diarrhoea, will not be allowed to return until they have been free from symptoms for at least 48 hours. This is to minimise the risk of transmission of an infection to other children, myself or members of my household. Please note that diarrhoea is defined as three or more loose stools within 24 hours or one case of liquid diarrhoea.

Can my child attend if they have head lice?

Although there is no official exclusion period for head lice, I ask that children are treated before they attend the setting and any lice are removed. If a child attending the setting has a large number of live lice in their hair, parents/carers may be called to collect their child for treatment to avoid lice being passed on to other children and staff.

What if a child or staff member has a notifiable disease?

In accordance with the Children Act 1989 regulations, I will notify Ofsted or my registering agency of any notifiable diseases as defined by the Health Protection Agency. They will also be notified of any child who has a serious disease. Notification will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring.

What if my child is ill while they are at home?

You must tell me before arriving at my setting if your child has been ill or taken any medication (including paracetamol) in any 48-hour period before I look after them, giving details of their symptoms and any medical advice received. This information must be shared with me, even if the child no longer shows any symptoms. This is to ensure the medication is not 'masking' any symptoms. Depending on the illness or the reason for taking medication, I may not be able to accept your child until they are well again.

What happens if my child becomes ill during a childcare session?

If your child becomes ill while in my care, I will contact you to collect them as soon as you can and make them as comfortable as possible until you arrive. If you cannot collect your child within an hour, please make arrangements for them to be collected by another suitable adult - preferably somebody known to me or on your emergency contacts list.

If your child is absent due to illness, full fees will still be expected, as I am still open for business. If I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a notifiable disease identified in the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, I will act on advice given by the Health Protection Agency and inform Ofsted of any action taken.

What happens if my childminder is ill?

I am happy to work when I have minor ailments, such as a cold. However, I will not work if I have sickness, diarrhoea or any other contagious infection or an illness that affects my ability to provide childcare safely and effectively.

I will therefore not be able to provide childcare in the event of such an illness. You will be expected to make other arrangements on these days.

What happens if a family member living in the childcare setting is ill?

If one of my family members has a confirmed infectious disease, I will inform you as soon as I am able. Depending on the illness, the age of the family member and their use of any shared space within the setting, I may or may not be required to close during this time.

Should it be safe for me to remain open, all contracted sessions will still be charged for, but you may choose to keep your child at home as a precaution if you prefer.

Will I still have to pay if Little Feet Daycare is closed?

I will not charge for sessions when I am closed due to personal illness or family illness.

What if a Public Health notice is issued and childcare settings are required to close?

If I am forced to close due to a Public Health notice (for example, COVID-19), then I cannot legally enforce payment of fees for the service I cannot provide.

However, in order to keep your child's place open, I politely request a voluntary contribution of £5 per day during the period of my closure.

What if I cannot find alternative childcare at short notice?

If you are employed and need to take time off work to look after your children without knowing about this in advance, you may be entitled to take 'dependency leave', 'parental leave' or 'compassionate leave'.

'There are no limits on how many times you can take time off for dependants. Your employer may want to talk to you if they think time off is affecting your work... Your employer may pay you for time off to look after dependants but they do not have to. Check your contract, company handbook or intranet site to see if there are rules about this.'

<https://www.gov.uk/time-off-for-dependants>