

## 6 HEALTH PROCEDURES

### 6.5 Poorly children

- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea and/or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager or senior manager on duty calls the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect on their behalf. Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools in a 24-hour period. ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases#diarrhoea-and-vomiting-gastroenteritis))
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly.
- If a child's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then Calpol may be given after gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called, and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities such as sand and water play, and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information about excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- If there is an outbreak of an infection (affecting more than 3-4 children), the setting manager keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
- If staff suspect that a child who falls ill whilst in their care is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

#### Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments methods if they are found.

## **Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)**

The use of paracetamol-based medicine may not be agreed in all cases. We cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis, unless there is an immediate reason for doing so. We do not normally keep such medicine on the premises as we are not allowed to 'prescribe'. However, given the risks to very young children of high temperatures, insurers may allow minor infringement of the regulations as the risk of not administering may be greater. Ofsted is normally in agreement with this.

Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of the setting for a normal day. A child over two who is not well, and has a temperature, must be kept cool and the parents asked to collect straight away.