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**Sick Child Exclusion Policy**

**Reviewed February 2022**

Free Rangers Forest Schools Ltd takes the health and well-being of all our children very seriously. We will only contact you if we consider it absolutely necessary and would appreciate your co-operation when your child is ill. Your child's condition will be assessed by a senior member of staff, who will then contact you or any emergency contacts to inform you of the child's illness.

We ask that children are collected promptly, under 1 hour where possible, especially if they are displaying symptoms of highly contagious illness such as Covid-19, sickness, diarrhea, conjunctivitis and hand, foot and mouth to name a few**. Parents MUST ensure they have prompt collection procedures in place for their child/ren.**

This policy sets out the exclusion periods from nursery for children who are ill, including if they are infectious. When excluding a child from Free Rangers due to illness Free Rangers takes into consideration guidance from the Department of Health with regards to exclusion periods. However individual cases and situations may be treated differently according to the needs and wellbeing of the children and staff. Please note children **can not** attend nursery if they have needed to take Calpol and will be sent home if Calpol is administered for a temperature of 38.5 or above.

**Please note details have now been added regarding exclusion for children showing symptoms of Covid-19.**

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| **Illness/Infection** | **Exclusion Period for children** |
| **Chicken Pox/Shingles** | 5 days from onset of rash as long as all spots are crusted over |
| **Cold Sores** | None |
| **Conjunctivitis** | Children can return after 48 hours of treatment |
| **Coronavirus (Covid-19)** | If children display any symptom of covid -19, this being high temperature, continuous cough or loss of taste/smell parents will be informed. In the case of a temperature children must always be collected and remain off nursery until they have been temperature free for 24 hours. With other symptoms the best course of action will be decided in a discussion between parents and Free Rangers staff. |
| **Diarrhea and/or Vomiting including Rotavirus/Norovirus/**  **Gastroenteritis** | 48 hours from the last episode, if as a result of illness or infection. (Also, after 2 or more loose stools in 1 hour, children are required to be sent home and may return 48 hours after the last episode) |
| **Flu** | Until recovered fully enough to participate in nursery activities |
| **German Measles (Rubella)\*** | 5 days from onset of rash |
| **Glandular Fever** | None, however, children must be well enough to participate in nursery activities |
| **Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease** | Children can return when the blisters begin to clear up, usually within 1 week |
| **Head lice** | None (however treatment should be given) |
| **Impetigo** | Until lesions are crusted or healed |
| **Measles\*** | 5 days from onset of rash |
| **Meningitis\*** | Until recovered (We will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit) |
| **Mumps\*** | 5 days from onset of swollen glands |
| **Ringworm** | Until treatment has commenced |
| **Scabies** | Until treatment has commenced |
| **Scarlet Fever\*** | 5 days after commencing antibiotics |
| **Slapped cheek** | None, however, children must be well enough to participate in nursery activities |
| **Threadworm** | None |

\* = Notifiable diseases

Please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions.

**Parents should always seek advice from their GP or Accident and Emergency department regarding the specific symptoms of their child.**

**NHS online or NHS 111**

**Children who are ill**

It is at the Manager’s discretion whether or not to allow a child into nursery if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no exclusion period or if this is after any exclusion period has passed or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious. The Manager will need to take into account the demeanor of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in nursery activities. They must also consider whether allowing a sick child in nursery would affect the staff to child ratios, as children who are unwell may require continual one to one attention. If we allow a child showing signs of illness or who has recently recovered from an illness into nursery then we will monitor them regularly and will contact parent/s to ask that they are collected if they become unwell again.

**Illness Outbreaks**

If there is an outbreak of an illness in the nursery then the Manger will consult with the Department of Health. We may decide to exclude children to control an outbreak even where this is not listed in our normal exclusion policy.

**Management will always inform parents/ careers of an illness outbreaks.**

**Infectious Illness reporting**

If a child has an illness, we would request that the parent/s contact the nursery as soon as possible so we can communicate this to all staff and parents, as well as Health Protection and Ofsted, if it is a notifiable disease. This is particularly important in case where a child has come into contact with a pregnant or vulnerable staff member or parent.

**Nursery Fees during absence**

If a child is absent from nursery fees remain payable. Management will do their upmost to ensure the child can return as soon as is possible while maintaining staff and other children’s safety.

This policy was first adopted at a meeting of Free Rangers held on 1st August 2011 and has been updated regularly.

Signed: Role: Owner

Signed: Role: Nursery Manager