



Cornbank Early Learning and Childcare Setting



Sickness and Illness Policy

Policy Statement

The health of the children and staff is of paramount importance to Cornbank ELC, and we endeavour to provide a healthy environment at our nursery. In order for us to maintain a clean and healthy environment, we ask that you keep your child at home if they are sick or displaying signs of illness.

This policy is shared with parents/carers and is available on the school website. It is expected that parents will adhere to the procedures and practices detailed within this document.

Aims

- To ensure that sick children are identified.
- To ensure that sick children are cared for appropriately.
- To protect children and adults from preventable infection.
- To enable staff and parents/carers to be clear about the requirements and procedures when a child is unwell.

Methods

Sickness prior to Attending Early Learning and Childcare

- We ask parents/carers to keep us informed about a child's health, and would appreciate a phone call or email to let us know if your child is unwell and unable to attend nursery. This allows us to communicate this to relevant staff as well as the Care Inspectorate if it is an illness that requires notification.
- Children should not attend nursery whilst suffering from one of the communicable diseases. Guidance about recommended periods for absence can be found on our school website. Staff members can also advise using NHS document guidance.
- Children who have symptoms of common colds are still able to attend the setting if they feel well enough to do so.
- Following any immunisation, a child's health must be assessed before sending them into nursery. Children should be observed for any signs of an allergic

reaction or high temperature, as these can develop after the immunisation. Parents must inform us of all immunisations. If you choose to send your child in and they become unwell we will call for you to collect your child.

- Parents **MUST** inform staff if they have administered Calpol or other pain relief to their child prior to nursery. This information is vital and is recorded in the communication book.
- Parents **MUST** inform staff if they have given Piriton or any other anti-histamine to their child for hay fever or an allergy. This information is vital and is recorded in the communication book.
- If your child has not been themselves at home but is not showing signs of illness when brought to nursery, please mention it to the staff, and let them know how best to contact you throughout the day.

At Early Learning and Childcare

- If your child appears to be unwell as they are brought into nursery we may suggest that you take your child home where you are able to monitor their wellbeing.
- If a child becomes ill or develops a temperature at nursery, we will contact parents or other authorised adults to come and collect the child. This will be done in a kind and caring manner.
- We will ensure that a sick child is treated swiftly, and with the minimum amount of stress for the child and parents.
- Whilst waiting for a sick child to be collected, staff will ensure the comfort of the child, taking appropriate action, which would include seeking medical advice if necessary. If the child is in danger, the staff will seek medical advice immediately.
- The Senior EYP will always be informed of any sick children. The Head Teacher will be informed if a child is sick with one of the communicable diseases such as; norovirus, Covid 19.
- If more than two children have the same symptoms or a confirmed communicable disease in the same period of time then this must be recorded on Care Inspectorate as an outbreak by the Head Teacher and if deemed necessary NHS Lothian Health Protection Team maybe informed.

Returning to ELC after illness

- NHS Lothian recommend that a child should not return to ELC until at least 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.
- If it is suspected that a child has an infectious or contagious disease, parents/carers will be requested to consult a doctor before returning the child to nursery.
- Health Protection Team will be consulted and Care Inspectorate is always notified of any outbreak of infectious/communicable disease.
- We ask parent/carers to inform the nursery if their child has been admitted to hospital, and the hospital discharge instructions should be followed prior to the child returning to nursery.

See also:

- Summary of Recommended Periods of Absence for Communicable Diseases, NHS Lothian.
- Management of Medication in Daycare of Children and Childminding Services, Care Inspectorate.
- Infection Control Policy, Cornbank Primary.

| Created by | Date |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Midlothain Council | August 2020 |
| Updated By | Date |
| Emma Daly and Laura Cameron | September 2020 |
| Reviewed by | Date |
| Emma Daly | August 2021 |
| Emma Daly | August 22 |
| Amy Finlayson | 27/8/23 |
| Emma Daly | 28/8/23 |