



The Goslings Preschool

Registered Charity No. 1209514

Managing Child Sickness, Infections and Allergies Policy

The Goslings Preschool aims to provide care for healthy children through preventing cross-infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

Procedures for Sick or Infectious Children

- If children or a member of the family show signs of Covid-19, they should not attend the preschool. Please follow the latest government and NHS guidelines.
- If your child has flu-like symptoms, please do not bring them to preschool.
- Coughs and colds are inevitable and we would not normally expect children to be kept away from preschool for minor colds. However, we encourage parents to keep children off preschool if they are suffering from severe bouts of coughing and/or a severe cold.
- If your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea, please do not bring them to the preschool as we have a strict policy requiring parents to keep children at home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- If your child has an infectious illness e.g. measles, chicken pox, hand foot and mouth, worms etc, please adhere to the quarantine advice of the GP and NHS.
- Children are not able to attend the preschool with chicken pox until the spots have dried up and scabbed over.
- If children appear unwell during the day, for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea, or pains, particularly in the head or stomach, a member of staff will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water.
- The child's temperature is taken using a forehead thermometer, kept in the first aid box.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then a member of staff will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called, and the parent is informed.
- Parents are sometimes asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and/or diarrhoea, or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint and have not taken them previously, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting to ensure that they can be monitored at home for any allergic reactions.
- Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination, may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities, and includes common childhood illnesses, such as measles.

Reporting of 'Notifiable Diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our Preschool Manager will inform Ofsted and contact Public Health England.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Procedure

- HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through bodily fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with bodily fluids are the same for all children and adults.

We:

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces, or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any used cloths are disposed of appropriately.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces, or vomit using a disinfectant.

Head Lice / Nits Procedure

- Although not an illness *per se*, head lice spread rapidly with close contact. We therefore ask parents not to bring children into the preschool until the head lice have completely cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for Children with Allergies

- When children start at preschool, we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form. If a child has an allergy, we complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
 - The allergen (i.e., the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc). If it is a food allergy, we also place an alert notice in a prominent place in the kitchen to ensure staff are always fully aware and vigilant when preparing/handling food.
 - The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g., anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
 - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g., EpiPen).
 - Control measures, such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
 - Review measures.
- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed where our staff can see it.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in.

Insurance Requirements for Children with Allergies and Disabilities

If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions or requiring invasive treatments, written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

At all times we ensure that the administration of medication (e.g. asthma inhaler) is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Oral Medication

- We will not administer any oral medication to children, other than antihistamines for known allergy sufferers, or asthma inhalers, which are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers, so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider. Asthma inhalers must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them, with clear written instructions on how to administer the inhaler.
- We adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of antihistamines and inhalers.
- We must have the parents' prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.
- Please refer to our Asthma Policy for further information.

Life-Saving Medication and Invasive Treatments

These include adrenaline injections (EpiPens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

We must have:

- A letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered.
- Written consent from the parent or guardian allowing our staff to administer medication.
- Proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.
- Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Early Years Alliance Insurance team for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.
- Treatments, such as inhalers or EpiPens, immediately accessible in an emergency.

If we are unsure about any aspect, we will contact the Early Years Alliance Insurance team on 020 7697 2585 or email insurance@eyalliance.org.uk.

This Policy has been reviewed and agreed by The Goslings Management Team and Parental Committee.