

Children who are unwell

Non-attendance

While we are always happy and committed to help support you, it is ultimately at the manager's discretion whether to accept a child into nursery if they are showing signs of illness. The manager will take into account the demeanour of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in nursery activities. We would encourage all families to make the same judgement call before coming in to nursery.

If a child should become unwell during a nursery session, the staff will do their best to comfort children and will keep you informed. We will observe the child carefully, taking appropriate measures to record and control their temperature. However, managers will use their discretion, and parents may be contacted and asked to collect their child if the manager feels it is appropriate.

If your child has an illness we would ask that you contact the nursery as soon as possible. We can then communicate this both internally to our operational teams and to other parents/carers if appropriate. We will also inform the Health Protection Unit and Ofsted on your behalf if it is a notifiable disease.

Minimum Periods of Exclusion from Common Childhood illness

The policy table overleaf sets out the exclusion periods from nursery for children who are ill.

First Steps Childcare takes into consideration the guidance from the Health Protection Agency with regards to exclusion periods for illnesses and infection control, however, the needs of the child are paramount.

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(continued)

Minimum Periods of Exclusion from Common Childhood illness

<u>ILLNESS/INFECTION</u>	<u>MINIMUM EXCLUSION PERIOD</u>
Vomiting/ Diarrhoea including Norovirus/ Rotavirus/Gastroenteritis	48 hours after last episode also after 3 or more loose stools in a nursery session – children are required to be sent home and may return 48 hours after the last episode.
Conjunctivitis	None – however, the discharge needs to be manageable – if there is an outbreak we may consider exclusion
Hand, Foot and Mouth	None – however the child must be well enough to participate in nursery activities if there is an outbreak we may consider exclusion
Slapped Cheek/Fifth disease	None – however the child must be well enough to participate in nursery activities if there is an outbreak we may consider exclusion
Mumps*	Medical diagnosis required – 5 days from the onset of swollen glands
Chickenpox	5 days from the onset of the rash as long as the spots are crusted over
German Measles (Rubella)*	Medical diagnosis required – 5 days from onset of rash
Measles*	Medical diagnosis required – 5 days from onset of rash
Scarlet Fever*	Medical diagnosis required – 24 hours after commencing antibiotics
Meningitis*	Until recovered- we will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit
Impetigo	Until the skin is healed, no open sores
Head lice	None – however, parents will be asked to treat the hair when live lice have been seen
Ringworm	Until treatment has been initiated
Scabies	Child can return after 1st treatment

* denotes a notifiable disease