



Minimum Periods of Exclusion from First Steps Childcare for Common Childhood illness

The policy 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.

ILLNESS/INFECTION	MINIMUM EXCLUSION PERIOD
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 1 st treatment.

* denotes a notifiable disease

Children who are ill

It is the manager's discretion whether to accept a child into nursery if they are showing signs of illness, they will be taking into account the demeanour of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in nursery activities.

If a child should become unwell during the nursery session the staff will do their best to comfort children and will keep you informed. We will observe the children 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 so that we can communicate this to other parents/carers, as well as staff and the Health Protection Unit and Ofsted if it is a notifiable disease.