

## ILLNESS POLICY

**Little gems Montessori Nursery** is committed to maintaining the good health of its pupils wherever possible. In order to ensure this, the nursery operates within the following guidelines:

- Staff will care for pupils becoming ill whilst at nursery until such time that a parent/guardian has been contacted and asked to collect their child.
- Pupils who appear to require emergency medical assistance will be transferred to the General Hospital, either by staff or ambulance. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible.
- In the case of an infectious condition, Parents/Guardians are requested to keep their child away from nursery. Minimum time scales for such absenteeism are given overleaf.
- Medications or antibiotics must be administered by the parent / guardian.
- Staff will only administer other medications prescribed by the doctor (e.g. asthma inhalers) and only when a written consent from the parent has been obtained.

*Please turn over for further important information regarding  
Little Gems Illness Policy.*

## Little Gems Montessori Nursery

### ILLNESS POLICY: Minimum time scales absenteeism

All children are prone to illness and on average a pre-school child can expect to get between 6-8 colds a year. However, to prevent the spread of illness it is important that if your child has an infectious illness they do not attend nursery. Additionally, children that are unwell require individual comfort and attention, which is not always easy to provide at nursery. The staff members at Little Gems are not permitted to administer medication to your child. Ill children are also better able to recover if they can rest and be cared for at home.

These are a list of common infectious childhood illnesses and Little Gems' time scales for exclusion from nursery school (according to the Centre for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations).

<b><u>If your child has:</u></b>	<b><u>Keep at home:</u></b>
<b>CHICKEN POX</b>	- until all the blisters have dried – usually at least 5 days from the onset of rash.
<b>GERMAN MEASELS</b>	- at least 4 days from the onset of rash.
<b>MEASELS</b>	- at least 4 days from the onset of rash.
<b>CONJUNCTIVITIS / PINK EYE</b>	- until discharge has stopped or 24 hours after starting prescribed drops.
<b>SCARLET FEVER / STREP THROAT</b>	- at least 72 hours after starting appropriate antibiotics.
<b>WHOOPING COUGH</b>	- at least 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotics.
<b>SICKNESS &amp; DIARRHOEA</b>	- at least 24 hours after symptoms have stopped.
<b>HIGH TEMPERATURE</b>	- at least 24 hours after temperature has returned to normal.
<b>HEADLICE &amp; NITS</b>	- can return to nursery as soon as appropriate treatment has been given.
<b>INFLUENZA / INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESSES</b>	- until fully well (see below)
<b>HAND FOOT &amp; MOUTH DISEASE (COXSACKIE VIRUS)</b>	- until fully well (see below) and mouth ulcers/ blisters have healed

As a general rule a child can be considered fit and well to return to school (after the necessary exclusion period) if s/he:

1. Can eat and drink normally
2. Has had no fever for 24 hours
3. Is rested and alert enough to pay attention / concentrate.