SANDCASTLES POLICY

*SAFEGUARDING & PROMOTING CHILDREN’S WELFARE*

ILLNESS

*Links into other policies – Child Protection, Admissions & Inductions, Arrival of Children, Health and Safety, Medicine and Asthma*

**Illness of a child** - it is not our role to look after ill children, they need to be nursed by the family at home.

We also have a duty to minimise cross infection and educate parents about risks of common usually minor illnesses - for a child with asthma, chickenpox can be dangerous enough to require hospitalisation.

However a child can be taken ill here, then we need to contact the parents. They can make a doctor's appointment and arrange to collect.

Of course we would care for the child appropriately until the family can arrange collection by:

* maintaining parents' contact details & **phone numbers** regularly,
* checking medical history on **Registration** forms & recording any new conditions,
* removing clothing if they are **too hot,**
* wrapping them up if they are **shivering,**
* cuddles and re-assurance if they are **distressed,**
* looking for danger signs of e.g. **meningitis,**
* monitoring **temperature,**
* cleaning up any **body fluids** properly.

The majority of our practitioners hold current paediatric first aid certificates and repeat their training every three years. Should a child’s condition demand **hospitalisation,** depending on the proximity of the family, we would either encourage them to take the child to hospital, or send for an ambulance and accompany the child, with the Registration Form listing medical history and any drug allergies.

We do share to attached guidance on minimum **exclusion periods** for common childhood infections and use notices and verbal reminders to share news of any contagious illnesses within the nursery community. We have to be vigilant about the danger of some illnesses to pregnant mums. We only administer medicine to children according to our **Medicine Policy.**

We have to be even more vigilant about any child with a **Medical Care Plan.** All staff need to be made aware of particular danger signs or trigger factors and required action.

**Illness in families** - when we become aware of illness or hospitalisation of a parent grandparent or any member of a child's family we try to be flexible about late collection and extra sessions. We look and listen for any signs of upset and we give emotional support to the child and the adults involved. We also share anonymous details on our illness board (e.g. sibling with measles).

**Illness of staff** - staff must inform Nursery as early as possible, of absence from work, and keep us informed of progress and likely return, as we have to cover staff to child ratios. Staff taken ill at nursery need to be sent home as soon as possible. Staff medications must be stored in staff cupboard where there in no possibility of children reaching it.

J. Stewart & H O’Hagan Tuesday, 29 May 2018. To be reviewed by May. 2020