

## **LITTLE FLOWERS BABYHOUSE & PRE-SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY**

A Nursery school is a wonderful place for young children to learn and thrive in. It is, however, also an ideal environment for germs to grow and be passed on from child to child. In order to safeguard our children from recurrent illnesses, as best as possible, certain guidelines need to be adhered to. These are:

- Children with potentially infectious diseases must be kept at home. (Below are some examples of infectious childhood diseases which will not be allowed at school. Please note that this list is by no means comprehensive).
- If a child becomes seriously ill while they are attending school the parent will be informed and asked to fetch the child immediately.
- It is the parent's responsibility to be contactable at all times in case of emergency, or to make adequate arrangements for a named adult to be available in their place. The school must be made aware of such person's contact details upon enrolling the child. The school reserves the right to call an ambulance if the situation warrants it, and the cost of the ambulance will be for the parent.
- Any medicine sent to school must be clearly marked with the child's name and dosage instruction, and documented in the medicine book in the classroom before handing it to the teacher to be placed in the medicine cupboard or refrigerator. Furthermore, it remains the parent's responsibility to remove the medicine from the box or refrigerator at the time of going home.
- Biting incidents: if a child is bitten while at school, the parents will be informed telephonically if the skin is broken. It is the parent's responsibility to take their child to the doctor and obtain treatment. If the skin is not broken the parents will be informed when they collect their child as it is unlikely that any immediate treatment is necessary. NB: Please inform the school if your tetanus injections are not up to date
- It is advisable that all parents who work out of town, or who will require a longer period to get to school, ensure that they have someone on standby that they can send to school on their behalf in such cases.

### **Common infectious diseases**

#### **Chickenpox**

Recognised by an itchy rash which forms small red spots which eventually turns into blisters. It usually begins on the body and then moves to the face. Chickenpox is contagious 1-2 days before the onset of the rash, and until all the lesions have formed crusts. **CHILDREN MAY ONLY RETURN TO SCHOOL WHEN ALL THE LESIONS HAVE CRUSTED OVER.**

#### **Conjunctivitis**

Commonly called pink eye, conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the thin, transparent membrane that covers the whites of the eyes and lines the eyelids. In bacterial infections, yellow sticky pus is seen in the corners of the eyes. In allergic cases the discharge is clear. **Bacterial conjunctivitis is highly contagious and hence should be treated with antibiotic eye drops AT HOME UNTIL THE PUS has completely disappeared.**

#### **Head Lice**

Head lice are small, flat, wingless insects that infest the hair on the human head. The symptoms are intense itching, tiny red spots on the scalp and small pearly white eggs covering the roots of the hair. Special head lice shampoos and nit combs can be obtained from the chemist. The rest of the family must be treated and the child will **ONLY BE ALLOWED BACK AT SCHOOL AFTER SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF BOTH THE LICE AND THE NITS.**

#### **Impetigo**

This is a bacterial infection that is most commonly seen around the lips, nose and ears. The characteristic rash starts as small blisters, which then break and crust over to become yellow-brown scabs. Although not serious it is highly contagious and must be treated with an antibiotic or antiseptic cream. **THE CHILD SHOULD STAY AT HOME UNTIL THE INFECTION HAS CLEARED.**

#### **Measles, Mumps and Rubella**

All 3 illnesses are highly infectious but preventable by immunization. Isolated cases can still occur and must be diagnosed and treated by a doctor. **NO CHILDREN WITH UNIDENTIFIED RASHES OR HIGH FEVERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO COME TO SCHOOL UNTIL DIAGNOSED BY A DOCTOR OR FULLY RECOVERED.** A doctor's letter must accompany the child when back at school.

Diarrhoea, vomiting and fever – see page 2

**The following protocol will be strictly followed by the school in case of fever:**

1. Never send a child who has a fever of 38 degrees or higher (or had fever during the night or weekend) to school as fever is indicative of an infection and it is highly likely that your child will infect his/her classmates.
2. Should a fever of 38 degrees or higher be detected at school, the child will be sponged down in order to reduce the temperature and the parents will be contacted for permission to administer fever medication.
3. If, 10 minutes after medication was administered, the fever still 1) rises or 2) remains the same the parents will be contacted to collect the child immediately.
4. **If the child has not been collected 20 minutes after the call was made, and the fever continues, the school reserves the right to call an ambulance as the danger of a convulsion is now extremely high. Please be assured that we will always use our discretion and common sense in such cases.**

**Diarrhoea & Vomiting**

If a child has ***LOOSE WATERY STOOLS AND/OR VOMITING HE/SHE SHOULD BE KEPT AT HOME.***

Even with good hygiene measures such as hand washing after nappy changes, mopping of floors etc; the illness is easily spread to other children in the facility. Furthermore the staff is not able to deal with the care of a vomiting child as well as their normal duties.

**Immunizations**

Children without an up to date immunization record will not be admitted to Little Flowers, unless there is a valid medical reason that is communicated in writing by a medical doctor. Such cases will be considered by the owner and enrolment will still be at the discretion of the owner and her medical advisor.

**LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO CONTINUE WITH OUR HIGH  
STANDARDS OF INFECTION CONTROL!!**

**Thanks  
Sandra & the Little Flowers Team**