

## Sickness and Illness Policy

ABA Pathways promote the good health of all clients by:

- Asking parents to keep children at home if they are unwell and to cancel sessions with tutors in this instance. If a child is unwell, it is in their best interest to be at home with their parents or carers rather than at the setting or with tutors/consultants.
- Asking staff and other visitors not to attend the setting if they are unwell
- Minimising infection through our rigorous cleaning at the setting and hand cleaning processes. children have regular access to the outdoors at the setting and having good ventilation inside.
- All parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair. If a parent finds that their child has head lice we would be grateful if they could inform their consultant so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.

In order to take appropriate action of children who become ill and to minimise the spread of infection we implement the following procedures:

- If a child becomes ill during a session at the setting, we contact their parent(s) or carer(s) and ask them to pick up their child as soon as possible.
- We follow the guidance published by Public Health England (Health Protection in Schools and other childcare facilities) and advice from our local health protection unit on exclusion times for specific illnesses, e.g. sickness and diarrhoea, measles and chicken pox, to protect other children in the setting
- Should a child have an infectious disease, such as sickness and diarrhoea, they must not return to the setting or to sessions in the home until they have been clear for at least 48 hours
- We inform all parents if there is a contagious infection identified in the setting, to enable them to spot the early signs of this illness. We thoroughly clean and sterilise all equipment and resources that may have come into contact with a contagious child to reduce the spread of infection.
- We ask parents to keep children on antibiotics at home for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell)
- We have the right to refuse admission to a child who is unwell. This decision will be taken by one of the directors on duty and is non-negotiable

Meningitis procedure:

- If a parent informs the nursery that their child has meningitis, a director will contact the Local Area Infection Control (IC) Nurse. The IC Nurse will give guidance and support in each individual case. If parents do not inform ABA Pathways, we may be contacted directly by the IC Nurse and the appropriate support given. We will follow

all guidance given and notify any of the appropriate authorities including Ofsted where necessary.

**Severe illness:**

- Staff members must inform a director immediately.
- Call 999 for an ambulance immediately if the illness is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the unwell child in your own vehicle
- Follow the instructions from the 999 call handler
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of staff must contact the parent(s)/ carer(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's reinforcers
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

**Minimum exclusion periods for illness and disease as recommended by the Health Protection Agency**

DISEASE	PERIOD OF EXCLUSION
Athletes Foot	None
Antibiotics prescribed	First 48 hours
Chicken Pox	Until all lesions have crusted over/ or 5 days if crusted over sooner
Conjunctivitis	None
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after last bout
Diphtheria	2-5 days
Dysentery	48 hours or until advised by the doctor
Food poisoning	48 hours or until advised by the doctor
Gastro-enteritis	48 hours or until advised by the doctor
General anaesthetic	48 hours
Glandular Fever	Until clinically well
Foot and Mouth	Until clinically well
Head lice	Until treatment has been given
Head Bang or Concussion	24 hours after injury was sustained
Hepatitis A	7 days from onset of jaundice, or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice
Hepatitis B, C	Until clinically well
High temperature	24 hours
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted/healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics
Measles	4 days from onset of rash and recovered
Meningitis	Until certified well
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling
Ringworm	Until treatment has been given

Rubella (German measles)	4 days from onset of rash
Scabies	Until treatment has been given
Scarlet Fever	48 hours after starting antibiotics
Slapped Cheek	Once rash has developed and clinically well
Tonsillitis	None
Tuberculosis	Until declared free from infection by a Doctor
Typhoid fever	Until declared free from infection by a Doctor
Warts	None
Whooping cough	48 hours from start of antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics

### **Quality Assurance**

ABA Pathways will ensure that systems are in place to monitor the implementation of and compliance with this policy and accompanying procedures.

The directors will ensure action is taken to swiftly remedy any identified weaknesses within its procedures.

### **Policy Dates**

This policy was written and takes effect January 2023.

Anna Colgate  
Director | RBT