

**Sick Child Policy**

We should be ever vigilant and observant as to the well being of the children in our care but at the same time we should allow them space and avoid invading their privacy by taking their temperature at frequent intervals.

The child’s body temperature is an indicator of how the child is feeling but is not the only one. A child can be very unwell but not have a raised temperature and this should be taken into account when making a decision to give Calpol or to send a child home. At the same time, we should take into account the fact that we have been entrusted with the care of the child because the parents are working and should not ask them to pick the child up unnecessarily.

If you feel that a child is unwell you should follow the following procedure:

* Ask the child how they are feeling in language appropriate to the age.
* Feel their back to assess whether they have a temperature, it will be burning if they have, if they are merely warm it is not necessary to take their temperature at this stage.
* If you think that they may have a temperature, ask a member of management and explain why you think the child has a raised temperature.
* If the child is not hot and you do not think they have a temperature, observe their behaviour and well-being closely.
* Allow them to lie on cushions or sit quietly in a cosy area or have a cuddle with their key person if that is what they wish but do not crowd them.
* If the child is lethargic and seems unwell ask management for permission to contact the parents to inform them that their child seems unwell and for permission to give Calpol.
* It is then the decision of the parent as to whether to collect their child or not.
* If the child’s condition does not improve or gets worse the parents should be informed.
* If the child shows signs of an infectious or contagious condition, the parent must collect their child as soon as possible.

Policy reviewed: September 2023

Date for review: September 2024