**Cygnet Nursery **

**Sick Child & Infection Control Policy**

We know and understand at Cygnet that it is often difficult for working parents to take time off work to care for their sick child, we try therefore to be as flexible as possible but our priority has to be the greater number of children placed in our care, who should not be put at risk of cross infection whilst attending Cygnet. Our staff are trained to care for the well child and do so to a very high standard, but children who are unwell place an extra burden on the staff to the inevitable detriment of the other children and staff are themselves put at risk when caring for sick children. To enable us to provide and maintain the highest standards of care we require all users of Cygnet to be aware of, and abide by the following.

* If a child becomes ill during a nursery session, staff will contact the parents/carers or the emergency contact indicated on the registration form. Parents must inform the nursery immediately of any changes to these contact details.
* If a child is suffering from a communicable illness the child should not be brought to nursery until such time as the infection has cleared. Parents are asked to refer to the ‘Guidance on infection control’ poster supplied by the Health Protection Agency, copies can be found in the nursery and also in the Manager’s office. Information includes minimum periods of exclusion from the nursery.
* Parents/Carers are required to notify the nursery if a child is absent from the nursery through illness.
* Any child who has been sent home from the nursery because of ill health will not be re-admitted for at least 48 hours. Children who are ill and symptomatic or infectious should not be brought in/returned to nursery until they have been free from symptoms for at least 48 hours i.e. High temperature, Diarrhoea and Vomiting, for 48 hours. If a child is prescribed antibiotics they will not be allowed to return to the nursery for 24 hours.
* We reserve the right to call an ambulance in an emergency and escort a child to the emergency department of the nearest hospital. Any decision regarding the child’s welfare will then be made by the emergency department at the hospital.
* It is the parent’s responsibility to inform the nursery if a child is not vaccinated in accordance with their age. If it is considered necessary, information regarding children vaccinated in nursery may be shared with other parents, however individual names will NOT be given to comply with confidentiality.
* The nursery can administer prescribed medication, it is the responsibility of the parent or Carer to notify staff and sign the necessary form of consent prior to any medication being given. *Please refer to Cygnet Medication Policy.*
* Non-prescribed medication can also be administered by the nursery with a letter of consent from the parent/Carer prior to any medication being given.
* Parents must, as soon as possible, disclose to the nursery any known medical condition, health problem or allergy, affecting a child, or any family circumstances or Court Order which might affect a child’s welfare or happiness, or any concerns about the child’s safety.
* The nursery on notification of a communicable illness, will display copies of the Health Protection Agency’s advice for information and support.
* Fees will not be refunded or waived for absence through sickness or any other reason.
* Any information given by a parent regarding their child will be treated as confidential except where child abuse is suspected. The divulging of confidential information relating to the nursery, its employees or customers, to any third party will be considered a breach of confidence and as such is regarded as gross misconduct which could lead to summary dismissal.
* Covid – 19 Policy is integrated into the sick child and infection control policy.

*(Policies & Procedures) Reviewed & Updated: March 2021 By: TW / Next Review Due: March 2022.*