

Sickness Policy

At Tuba's Play House, we strive to provide a safe and healthy environment for all children in our care. We understand that children may become ill from time to time, and this policy outlines our procedures for managing these situations. This policy is written in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025) requirements and Sutton Council guidance.

Illness During Attendance

If a child becomes unwell during their attendance at Tuba's Play House, we will contact parents immediately and ask that they collect their child as soon as possible. While waiting, the child will be cared for in a quiet, separate area to reduce risk of spreading infection.

Illness Before Attendance

If a child is unwell before their scheduled attendance, parents are asked to keep them at home until they are fully recovered. This helps to protect the health of other children and staff. Parents should notify us as soon as possible if their child is unwell and unable to attend.

When to Stay Off

Children should stay at home if they have any of the following symptoms:

- A fever (temperature of 38°C or higher)
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- A rapidly spreading rash
- A heavy cold or persistent cough
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Head lice (until treated)

When to Return

Children should only return when they have fully recovered and no longer pose a risk of infection. We follow the guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Sutton Council regarding exclusion periods:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting: 48 hours from the last episode
- Fever: 24 hours after temperature has returned to normal
- Conjunctivitis: 24 hours after starting treatment
- Head lice: once treatment has been carried out

If parents are unsure, they should seek advice from their GP or NHS 111 before returning their child to the setting.

Extended Illness

If a child has been absent due to illness for an extended period, we will work with parents and any external agencies involved to support the child's safe and successful return to the setting.

Hygiene and Infection Control

We take hygiene very seriously and encourage all children to wash their hands regularly, cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing, and use tissues ('catch it, bin it, kill it'). Premises and equipment are cleaned and disinfected frequently. We follow Sutton Council and UKHSA infection control guidance at all times, including exclusion periods and reporting of notifiable diseases.

Toileting and nappy changing are carried out in line with our Health and Safety Policy, following strict hygiene routines to minimise the risk of cross-infection and to support children's dignity and wellbeing.

Conclusion

We understand that it can be difficult for parents when children are unwell, however the health and safety of all children in our care must take priority. By following this policy, we aim to limit the spread of infection and ensure that children are only cared for when they are well enough to fully participate in activities.