



Merry-go-Round Ltd  
St James Parish Centre  
Church Street  
Weybridge  
Surrey  
KT13 8DE

## Sickness Policy

**Policy Statement:** At Merry-Go-Round Ltd, we prioritise the health and well-being of all children in our care. This sickness policy outlines our approach to preventing the spread of illnesses and maintaining a safe and healthy environment in alignment with EYFS 2025 guidance.

### Exclusion Criteria:

- Children exhibiting symptoms of illness will be temporarily excluded from the setting to reduce infection risk.
- We adhere to local health authority guidelines. In the case of your child having Diarrhoea and or vomiting, with or without a specified diagnosis, they will be excluded from attending the setting for 48 hours from the last episode of this.

### Parental Communication:

**It is imperative that parents/carers notify staff if they suspect their child is unwell, or if they have administered medicine before arriving at the setting.**

- Parents or legal guardians will be immediately informed if their child becomes ill at the setting.
- Parents are required to arrange prompt collection of their child.

**Symptoms Requiring Exclusion:** Children must be excluded if they exhibit:

- Fever (temperature of 100.4°F or higher)
- Vomiting or diarrhoea (two or more episodes in 24 hours)
- Severe coughing or breathing difficulties
- Severe sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Persistent or severe headache

- Rash accompanied by fever or behavioural changes
- Red, runny eyes with discharge
- Other symptoms deemed concerning by the setting.

### **Return Criteria:**

- Children may return after being symptom-free for at least 48 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- For communicable illnesses, a doctor's note confirming the child is no longer contagious will be required.

### **Proper Hand Hygiene:**

- Regular handwashing with soap and water (minimum 20 seconds) is encouraged for staff and children.
- throughout the setting.

### **Health Records and Emergency Contacts:**

- Parents must provide current health records, including vaccinations and emergency contacts.
- Emergency contact details will be easily accessible at all times.

### **Medication Administration:**

**Medicines can only be accepted for children with an on going non-infectious ailment or where a course of medicine is being completed e.g antibiotics.**

**The staff will not administer medicines to children who appear unwell and need to recover at home.**

**If a child is prescribed antibiotics, then we request that the child does not attend the setting for at least the first few days.**

Medication administration follows strict guidelines and is conducted with written parental consent.

- All medication are securely stored in a clearly named box in the fridge and must have full instructions & administered according to instructions and regulations, and recorded.

**Reporting Illness Outbreaks:**

- Suspected contagious illness outbreaks will be promptly reported to local health authorities.

**Review and Monitoring:**

- This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if necessary, ensuring effectiveness and compliance with EYFS 2025 and local guidelines.
- Feedback from staff, parents, and external agencies will inform continuous policy improvement.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

- This policy reflects the EYFS 2025 emphasis on robust health and hygiene standards, proactive illness prevention, and clear parental communication, ensuring children's welfare is consistently safeguarded.

Signed: Angela & Emma Higgins

Date: Sept 2026/2027