**Sickness, Childminder sickness Illness & Infectious Diseases Policy**

Date of Policy: March 2019 Responsibility: Kallie Barrington-Light Review Date: March 2020

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| I strive to keep children safe when they are in my care; promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection within my setting.  I will discuss with the parents during the settling-in period the arrangements for the exclusion of a child should they become ill whilst in my setting and will keep a record of the arrangement agreed. Please also see a copy of my common childhood illness exclusion period form.  I appreciate that as a working parent you need to be able to go to work, however if your child is unwell then they will be better cared for in their own home with their parents. I am happy to care for children with minor coughs and colds but will not care for children who are unwell, infectious or running a high temperature. I have to consider the welfare of all the children in my care as well as myself and my family.  Please consider the implications of knowingly bringing a sick child to my setting.  If I become unwell as a result and have to close the setting, this impacts all the other children I care for and their parents.  **As set by The Public Health Agency, if your child has had diarrhoea or sickness in the last 48 hours please do not bring them in, but please let me know.**  If your child becomes ill whilst in my care, I will make them as comfortable as possible, isolate them from the other children if necessary and reassure them. I will contact you immediately and continue to care for your child until you arrive.  All children in my setting who are excluded due to having an illness or an infectious disease will not be allowed to return until they have been free from illness for 48 hours.  I reserve the right to act on advice from the NHS or the Health Protection Agency regarding an infectious illness.  I will not accept a child with conjunctivitis who still has discharge coming from their eyes or a child with untreated head lice.  This is in order to minimise the risk of the transmission of an infection to other children, myself or members of my household.  If I believe a child in my setting is suffering from a notifiable disease, identified as such in the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, I will act on advice given by the Health Protection Agency and inform Ofsted of any action taken.  I am happy to administer medication provided by you, please see my Medicine Policy.  I am happy to work when I have minor ailments such as colds etc. However, I will not work if I have sickness or diarrhoea or any other highly contagious infection. Continuing to work would only result in a further spreading of the infection and I would be unable to provide your child with the care they deserve.  If I am unable to work on a contracted day, I will make contact with you the night before or in the morning as early as possible to advise you that I will be unable to accept children that day. You will not be charged if I am unable to care for your child/children.  I will also contact you if one of my own children is not well, inform you of the illness/symptoms and if I am able to work. This then allows you to make an informed decision as to whether to bring your child or not. Normal charges will apply in these circumstances. |

Closing– if advised by Public Health, Department of Education or other bodies, I will have to close my childminding setting. I will follow advice and make every effort to keep parents up-to-date at all times. **Please note that normal charges will apply in the circumstances.**