**Sickness and Illness – children should not be at nursery if they are unwell – they prefer to be home with their parents.**



At Woodpeckers we have always had policies regarding managing children who are sick, or have infections, and these are quite strict. During the last few weeks we have had many children who are unwell, and would be much happier if they were kept at home. This avoids the spread of infection to other children, staff, and parents, some of whom are very susceptible to infections which could then result in their **hospitalisation**. When staff become sick, we cannot meet child/staff ratios providing our normal high quality care. Ofsted requires that we then close.

**Extracts from our policy statements:**

At Woodpeckers we aim to provide care for **healthy** children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for **48 hours** before returning to the setting.
* At Woodpeckers it is not our policy to care for sick children, who should be at home until they are well enough to return to the setting.
* We will agree to administer medication as part of maintaining health and wellbeing, or when they are **recovering** from an illness.
* We ensure that where medicines are necessary to maintain the health of a child they are given **correctly** and in accordance with legal requirements.
* We can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection, e.g. conjunctivitis, or contagious disease.
* **Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.**

**As a children’s nursery we are here to provide care and education for all our children, but we cannot provide nursing care. Ill children need the 1 to 1 care of their parents or family. They will recover more quickly, and others will be protected from becoming ill**.