

## Temperature Policy

At Playgroup, children's temperatures are not routinely checked. Our practitioners form strong relationships with the children in their care and get to know what is 'normal behaviour' for each child. If a child displays out of character behaviour, such as not eating, lethargy, unusual crying, clinginess, feel warm and look flushed or develop a rash, further investigation will be carried out. These symptoms among others often lead to the temperature being checked. A high temperature (fever) is very common in young children. The temperature usually returns to normal within 3 or 4 days.

A normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this can vary slightly from child to child. A high temperature is 38C or more and the child will be monitored closely. Our practitioners knowledge of the child will determine how they respond to each individual's needs taking into consideration the environmental factors including the time of year, weather/temperature/if the heating is on, what clothing the children are wearing, if they have just woken from a sleep and a blanket had been used, etc.

They will check for the presence of other symptoms;

- sweaty/clammy skin,
- rash,
- refusal to eat or drink,
- dehydration (dry nappies, no tears when crying),
- lethargy

For temperatures up to 37.9C, the child can remain at Playgroup, if they seem well enough to do so. Playgroup does not store Calpol/Ibuprofen and will not administer it unless it has been prescribed and the correct permissions completed and signed. Fluids will be offered, clothing may be loosened or removed, ventilation will be provided. The temperature will be closely monitored.

If the temperature reads 38C or above, then it will be checked again after 10 minutes and if still high the child will be taken to a quiet area (either in the classroom or office) and the parents will be contacted and prompt collection will be expected.

### **We will seek emergency medical advice and call 999:**

If a child has a high temperature and any of the following:

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it
- is bothered by light
- has a fit (febrile seizure) for the first time (they cannot stop shaking)
- has unusually cold hands and feet
- has pale, blotchy, blue or grey skin
- has a weak, high-pitched cry that's not like their normal cry
- is drowsy and hard to wake



- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- finds it hard to breathe and sucks their stomach in under their ribs
- has a soft spot on their head that curves outwards (bulging fontanelle)
- is not responding like they normally do, or is not interested in feeding or normal activities

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