



Funtime Pre-school Ltd

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30th September 2011

Dear parents,

Diarrhoea at Funtime Pre-school

A child attending our pre-school has recently been diagnosed with diarrhoea caused by the E Coli 0157 bacteria. (Confirmatory tests awaiting).

We have been advised to circulate the following information to all our parents and children. The pre-school are assisting the Health Protection Agency who have recommended we issue the following information.

The infection causes illness ranging from mild diarrhoea to severe diarrhoea containing blood, and fever and abdominal cramps may also be present. If your child suffers from these symptoms, please seek medical advice and inform your doctor of this letter so that a stool specimen can be tested.

There is no particular treatment for the infection other than taking lots of fluids and usually the illness settles within 2 weeks. In a small number of cases, serious complications can occur.

E Coli can be acquired from eating or drinking contaminated food or water, contact with animals and swimming or playing in contaminated water. It can also be spread from person to person through contact with faeces. As with any diarrhoea illness, good hand washing after using the toilet, changing nappies, before and after eating or preparing food and after handling animals is extremely important. Hand washing in young children should be supervised.

Further information about E Coli 0157 can be found at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/EscherichiaColi0157/PatientCarer/>

Information and advice is also available from NHS Direct telephone 0845 4647. Please contact Angie the Supervisor if you have any queries or require further information. Please feel assured that personal hand washing is a very important part of pre-school routine, and is supervised at all times.

Yours faithfully

Angie O'Driscoll
Supervisor