



## HEALTHY EARLY YEARS LONDON

### Monkey Puzzle Golders Green

### Immunisation Statement

**Date: April 2019**

**Date to be reviewed: Nov 2021**

#### **Aims**

As a Healthy Early Years London setting we want to ensure that we promote the health and well-being of the whole setting community through encouraging parents/carers to immunise children and by providing consistent messages to children, parents/carers and staff.

#### **We are aware of the importance of immunisation**

Immunisation is the safest way of protecting children against serious diseases. Some diseases can kill children or cause lasting damage to their health. Immunisation prepares children's bodies to fight off diseases if they come into contact with them.

We are aware that there has recently been a drop in the number of children being immunised which has caused outbreaks of some diseases. The low uptake of childhood immunisation has led to more children suffering from vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, whooping cough and polio.

#### **We promote positive messages about immunisation and encourage parents/carers to fully immunise their children**

We proactively and confidently approach parents and carers about children's immunisation status. If a child is not immunised, we encourage parents or carers to go to their GP or talk to their health visitor to find out more about immunisations. There is also information available for parents and carers, including information on what immunisations are given and when [www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/Pages/childhood-vaccination-schedule.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/Pages/childhood-vaccination-schedule.aspx).

We are confident to share key messages to parents and carers about immunisation, such as:

- immunisations save lives
- it is important to make sure babies are protected as early as possible
- it is never too late to have a child immunised even if a child has missed an immunisation and is older than the recommended ages
- vaccines are quick, safe and extremely effective. It is common for children to have some redness, a rash or swelling where the needle goes in, this should only last about a day
- the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine does not cause autism
- when a child is immunised it helps to protect the whole community, this is important because some children with medical conditions or allergies cannot have certain vaccines.

We also offer information and advice for parents and carers in preparing children for vaccination injections and support thereafter.

#### **We have a procedure in place for checking and recording children's immunisation status**

We understand that it is very important to maintain and keep an up to date record of children's immunisation status. Some children under our care may be at a higher risk of exposure to infectious diseases due to contact with more children and adults than children at home. Keeping a current record of all children's immunisation status helps us to quickly identify which parents/carers need to be informed if there is an outbreak of a specific disease.

On registering a new child, we request the parents for the 'red book' given to all children born in the UK with their immunisation and early health information. Parents whose children are not born here are also asked to confirm the

immunisation status of their children and copies are taken and filed for the duration of that child's time with us, including details of any known medical concerns, allergies/intolerances and the contact details of their family GP.

This information is also saved on our management software so we have access to it in at least two secure places.

Should we not have this information available for a family, we would disseminate useful information about immunisations to the family and contact their stated GP to encourage cross working with them. We would also ensure they are aware of the likelihood of catching illnesses in a communal environment like a nursery and advise them of the importance of doing so in order to build their child's immunity. Information will be sourced from the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation> to give to the family.