

ELIJAH SOCIAL COGNITIVE SKILLS CENTRE

Dr Debora Elijah PhD MA DEA BSc (Hons)

997 Finchley Road, London, NW11 7HB

www.deboraelijah.com; pa@elijahsocialskills.co.uk; 0740 588 9912



Infection, Sickness and Allergy Policy	
Responsible Committee:	CEO of ESCSC Dr Debora Elijah
Policy Coordinator:	Director of ESCSC Nivin Jaber
Date revised:	September 2024
Next review date:	September 2025

By implementing and enforcing this policy, the Elijah Social Cognitive Skills Centre (ESCSC) aims to create a safe and healthy environment for all children in its care while effectively managing any health-related challenges that may arise.

Preventative Measures

- All staff members should receive training on recognising symptoms of common illnesses, infectious diseases, and allergies.
- Parents/carers should be informed during enrolment about the ESCSC's policies regarding sick, infectious, or allergic children.
- All allergies will be recorded on a spreadsheet which will be passed on to the ESCSC staff.
- Regular cleaning and disinfection of toys, surfaces, and common areas should be conducted to minimise the spread of germs.
- Hand hygiene practices (handwashing or sanitising) should be promoted among children and staff.

Sick Child Policy

- Parents/carers are instructed not to bring their child to the ESCSC if they are displaying symptoms of illness such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, persistent cough, or any contagious condition in the last 24 hours. Children cannot attend until they are 48 hours symptom free.
- If a child becomes ill while at the ESCSC, parents/carers will be contacted immediately to arrange for the child to be picked up.
- A designated area (Office or Sensory room) will be provided where sick children can rest comfortably and away from other children until they can be picked up.
- Staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, masks) when caring for sick children to prevent the spread of illness.

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Infectious Disease Policy

- In the event of an outbreak of a contagious disease within the ESCSC or the community, parents/carers will be notified promptly, and appropriate measures will be taken as advised by health authorities.
- Children who have been diagnosed with a contagious disease should be kept away from the ESCSC until they are no longer contagious, as determined by healthcare professionals or relevant guidelines.
- There are vaccination requirements to attend ESCSC. Your child must have received the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination and provide proof.
- Any child or staff member who has been exposed to a contagious disease should follow the recommended NICE guidelines on quarantine or isolation period before returning to the ESCSC.

Allergy Management Policy

- Parents should provide detailed information about their child's allergies during enrolment, including specific allergens and any necessary medications or treatments.
- Allergen-specific protocols should be established and communicated to staff to prevent accidental exposure to allergens.
- The ESCSC is a nut free zone. Parents/carers must provide alternative snacks or meals if necessary.
- The ESCSC will not provide snacks or meals due to allergy risks. Likewise, children will not be permitted to share snacks.
- Some ESCSC programmes include food tasting. Parents/carers will be made aware prior and written consent form will be provided.
- Emergency action plans should be in place for children with severe allergies, including the availability of epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPen) and staff training on their use.
- Staff allergy and medical records will also be kept for use and any information that is necessary might be shared with the multidisciplinary team.

Communication and Documentation

- Clear communication channels should be established between parents/carers and ESCSC staff regarding their child's health status, including any changes in symptoms or medication.
- Accurate records should be maintained of any illnesses, incidents, or allergic reactions that occur at the ESCSC, including the actions taken and any follow-up required. If an incident occurs a copy will be given to the parents and to sign the original document.

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Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed yearly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

Amendments to the policy may be made as necessary and all staff should be made aware of the new changes.