



Promoting Health and Hygiene

Administering Medicines

Policy Statement

While 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 their health and well-being or when they are recovering from an illness.

In many cases, it is possible for children's GP's to prescribe medicine that can be taken at home in the morning and evening. As far as possible, administering medicines will only be done where it would be detrimental to the child's health if not given in the setting. If a child has not had a medication before, it is advised that the parent keeps the child at home for the first 48 hours to ensure no adverse effect as well as to give time for the medication to take effect.

These procedures are written in line with current guidance in 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings'; the manager is responsible for ensuring all staff understand and follow these procedures.

The key person is responsible for the correct administration of medication to children for whom they are the key person. This includes ensuring that parent consent forms have been completed, that medicines are stored correctly and that records are kept according to procedures. In the absence of the key person, the manager is responsible for the overseeing of administering medication.

Procedures

- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- Generally, only prescribed medication is administered. It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
- Children's medicines are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children.
- Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The staff receiving the medication must ask the parent to sign and complete a Medication Care Plan consent form. No medication may be given without these details being provided:-
- The administration is recorded accurately each time it is given and is signed by staff and parents, to acknowledge the administration of a medicine.
- Children taking non-prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting. Non-prescribed medication will only be administered in exceptional circumstances.

Storage of medicines:

- All medication is stored safely in our First Aid cupboard or refrigerated. They are kept in a named plastic bag.
- The child's key person/manager is responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent.
- For some conditions, medication may be kept in the setting. Key persons check that any medication held to administer on an as and when required basis, or on a regular basis, is in date and returns any out-of-date medication back to the parent.
- If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, group training is provided for the relevant member of staff by a health professional.
- No child may self-administer but are assisted with administration in the case of inhalers. Where children are capable of understanding when they need medication, for example with asthma, they should be encouraged to tell their key person what they need. However, this does not replace staff vigilance in knowing and responding when a child requires medication.

Children who have long term medical conditions and who may require on ongoing medication:

- A risk assessment is carried out for each child with long term medical conditions that require ongoing medication. This is the responsibility of the manager alongside the key person. Other medical or social care personnel may need to be involved in the risk assessment.
- Parents will also contribute to a risk assessment. They should be shown around the setting, understand the routines and activities and point out anything which they think may be a risk factor for their child.
- For some medical conditions key staff will need to have training in a basic understanding of the condition as well as how the medication is to be administered correctly. The training needs for staff is part of the risk assessment.
- The risk assessment includes vigorous activities and any other pre-school activity that may give cause for concern regarding an individual child's health needs.
- The risk assessment includes arrangements for taking medicines on outings and the child's GP's advice is sought if necessary where there are concerns.
- A health care plan for the child is drawn up with the parent; outlining the key person's role and what information must be shared with other staff who care for the child.

- The health care plan should include the measures to be taken in an emergency.
- The health care plan is reviewed every six months or more if necessary. This includes reviewing the medication, e.g. changes to the medication or the dosage, any side effects noted etc.
- Parents receive a copy of the health care plan and each contributor, including the parent, signs it.

Managing medicines on trips and outings:

- If children are going on outings, staff accompanying the children must include the key person for the child with a risk assessment, or another member of staff who is fully informed about the child's needs and/or medication.
- Medication for a child is taken in a sealed plastic bag clearly labelled with the child's name, name of the medication, Inside the bag is a copy of the consent form and a card to record when it has been given, with the details as given above.
- On returning to the setting the card is stapled to the medicine record book and the parent signs it.
- If a child on medication has to be taken to hospital, the child's medication is taken in a sealed plastic bag clearly labelled with the child's name, name of the medication. Inside the bag is a copy of the consent form signed by the parent.
- This procedure is read alongside the outing's procedure.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of		
Held on		(date)
Date to be reviewed		(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee		
Name of signatory		
Role of signatory		

Scalliwags Pre-School CIO

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Registered Charity No. 1179340, Ofsted Registration No. 2515454

Temperature	Must be off for 24 hours after symptoms have subsided
Vomiting	Must be off for 48 hours after symptoms have subsided
Diarrhoea	Must be off for 48 hours after symptoms have subsided
Antibiotics prescribed by a doctor	First 2 days at home and until symptoms have subsided
Conjunctivitis	Kept at home for 2 days, thereafter until eyes no longer weeping
Chickenpox	Minimum of 7 days or until blisters have scabbed over
Measles	7 days from appearance of the rash
Mumps	Until the swelling has subsided and in no case less than 7 days from onset
Rubella (German Measles)	7 days from appearance of the rash
Fifth Disease (Slapped Cheek)	Until clinically well with no fever
Tonsillitis, scarlet fever and streptococcal of the throat	In no case for less than 5 days from the start of appropriate medical treatment
Impetigo	Until the skin is healed
Covid-19	10 days at home following the onset of symptoms or a positive result. For more detailed guidance please refer to the Covid-19 policy.

ILLNESS

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- Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The staff receiving the medication must ask the parent to sign and complete a Medication Care Plan consent form. No medication may be given without these details being provided.
- The administration is recorded accurately each time it is given and is signed by staff and parents, to acknowledge the administration of a medicine.

- Children taking non-prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting. Non-prescribed medication will only be administered in exceptional circumstances, or for allergic reactions.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE MEDICATION OF ANY KIND IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG!