

## **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 (by a Doctor or Dentist) must be well enough to attend the setting.
- [ Only prescribed medication is administered. It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
- [ NB Children's paracetamol (un-prescribed) is administered only for children with the written consent of the parents in the case of a high temperature. This is to prevent febrile convulsion and where a parent or named person is on their way to collect the child.
- [ Children's prescribed 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 a consent form stating the following information. No medication may be given without these details being provided:
  - full name of child and date of birth;
  - name of medication and strength;
  - who prescribed it;
  - dosage to be given in the setting;
  - how the medication should be stored and expiry date;
  - any possible side effects that may be expected should be noted; and
  - signature, printed name of parent and date.

The setting holds a small supply of Children's Paracetamol (Calpol), and Allergy protection (Piriton). However these will only be administered in emergency situations. For example:

- [ In the event of a child who develops a high temperature whilst attending the setting. The child's Key person or Leader will contact the parent to collect the child. However if the parent is unable to collect the child immediately, staff will encourage the child to drink fluids to re-hydrate, and cool the child down and will only administer Paracetamol with the parents permission.
- [ In the event of a child being stung, and displaying a allergic reaction (swelling, difficulty breathing) Piriton will be administered, and emergency procedures followed.
- [

The medicine record will be completed, and parents signature recorded.

This medication will only be administered with prior written consent, and only in an emergency situation. Consent forms are included in our registration forms. We follow Ofsted's guidance on 'Giving medication to children in registered childcare and the EYFS welfare standards.

The child's Key Person will receive the child's medication, and complete the medicine record, obtaining information from the parent/carer, ensuring that their signature is recorded to confirm the correct information has been recorded. Information will be displayed on our daily white board, informing of time medication is to be administered.

- [ The administration is recorded accurately each time it is given and is signed by staff. Parents sign the record book to acknowledge the administration of a medicine. The medication record book records:
  - [ name of child;
  - [ name and strength of medication;
  - [ the date and time of dose;
  - [ dose given and method; and is
  - [ signed by key person/manager; and is verified by parent signature at the end of the day.
- [ We use the Pre-school Learning Alliance's publication *Medication Record* for recording administration of medicine and comply with the detailed procedures set out in that publication.

#### *Storage of medicines*

- All medication is stored safely in a locked cupboard or refrigerated. Where the cupboard or refrigerator is not used solely for storing medicines, they are kept in a marked plastic box.

- The child's key person 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.

Medicines are stored in the fridge if this is required, with the child's name clearly labelled. All medicines are inaccessible to children.

- ▮ If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, individual training is provided for the relevant member of staff by a health professional.
- If rectal diazepam is given another member of staff must be present and co-signs the record book.
- No child may self-administer. 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 nursery 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 box clearly labelled with the child's name, name of the medication, Inside the box 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 box clearly labelled with the child's name, name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form signed by the parent.
- As a precaution, children should not eat when travelling in vehicles
- This procedure is read alongside the outings procedure.

#### **Legal framework**

- Medicines Act (1968)

#### **Further guidance**

- Giving medication to children in registered childcare (Ofsted)
- [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-giving-medication-children](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-giving-medication-children)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Explorers Pre-School

Held on \_\_\_\_\_  
Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed on behalf of the management \_\_\_\_\_  
committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_  
Role of signatory (Chairperson) Chairperson

**Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

- Medication Record (2006)
- Register and Outings Record (2006)