

Medication Policy

England: EYFS
3.17 3.42 - 3.44

1.1 We promote the good health of children attending nursery and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection (see sickness and illness policy). If a child requires medicine we will obtain information about the child's needs for this, and will ensure this information is kept up to date.

When dealing with medication of any kind in the nursery, strict guidelines will be followed.

1.2 Medication prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist

(Medicines containing aspirin will only be given if prescribed by a doctor)

- Prescription medicine will only be given to the person named on the bottle for the dosage stated
- Medicines must be in their original containers
- Those with parental responsibility for any child requiring prescription medication should hand over the medication to the most appropriate member of staff who will then note the details of the administration on the appropriate form and another member of staff will check these details
- Those with parental responsibility must give prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication. However, we will accept written permission once for a whole course of medication or for the ongoing use of a particular medication under the following circumstances:
 1. The written permission is only acceptable for that brand name of medication and cannot be used for similar types of medication, e.g. if the course of antibiotics changes, a new form will need to be completed
 2. The dosage on the written permission is the only dosage that will be administered. We will not give a different dose unless a new form is completed
 3. Parents must notify us IMMEDIATELY if the child's circumstances change, e.g. a dose has been given at home, or a change in strength/dose needs to be given.
- The nursery will not administer a dosage that exceeds the recommended dose on the instructions unless accompanied by written instructions from a relevant health professional such as a letter from a doctor or dentist
- The parent must be asked when the child has last been given the medication before coming to nursery; this information will be recorded on the medication form. Similarly when the child is picked up, the parent or guardian must be given precise details of the times and dosage given throughout the day. The parent's signature must be obtained at both times
- At the time of administering the medicine, a senior member of staff will ask the child to take the medicine, or offer it in a manner acceptable to the child at the prescribed time and in the prescribed form. (It is important to note that staff working with children are not legally obliged to administer medication)

- If the child refuses to take the appropriate medication then a note will be made on the form
- Where medication is “essential” or may have side effects, discussion with the parent will take place to establish the appropriate response.

1.3 Attending nursery after starting medication

- It is important that children are not subjected to the rigours of the nursery day, which requires socialising with other children and being part of a group setting, when they have first become ill and require a course of antibiotics. Our policy, therefore, is to exclude children on antibiotics for the first 48 hours of the course (unless this is part of an ongoing care plan to treat individual medical conditions e.g. asthma and the child is not unwell)

1.4 Non-prescription medication (*these will not usually be administered*)

- The nursery will only administer non-prescription medication for a short initial period, dependant on the medication or the condition of the child (See sickness and illness Policy). After this time medical attention should be sought
- If the nursery feels the child would benefit from medical attention rather than non-prescription medication, we reserve the right to refuse nursery care until the child is seen by a medical practitioner
- An emergency nursery supply of fever relief (e.g Calpol) and antihistamines (e.g. Piriton) will be stored on site. This will be checked at regular intervals by the designated trained first aider to make sure that it complies with any instructions for storage and is still in date
- If any child is brought to the nursery in a condition in which he/she may require medication sometime during the day, the manager will decide if the child is fit to be left at the nursery. If the child is staying, the parent must be asked if any kind of medication has already been given.
- As with any kind of medication, staff will ensure that the parent is informed of any non-prescription medicines given to the child whilst at the nursery, together with the times and dosage given
- The nursery DOES NOT administer any medication unless prior consent is given for each and every medicine.
 - The only circumstance we may administer pain-relief like Calpol is when a child is teething and is well enough to be at nursery but needs medication to relieve the pain.

1.5 Injections, pessaries, suppositories

As the administration of injections, pessaries and suppositories represents intrusive nursing, they should not be administered by any member of staff unless appropriate medical training is given to every member of staff caring for this child. This training would be specific for every child and not generic. The nursery will do all it can to make any reasonable adjustments including working with parents and other professionals to arrange for appropriate health officials to train staff in administering the medication.

1.6 Staff medication

All nursery staff have a responsibility to work with children only where they are fit to do so. Staff must not work with children where they are infectious or too unwell to meet children's needs. This includes circumstances where any medication taken affects their ability to care for children, for example, where it makes a person drowsy. If any staff member believes that their condition, including any condition caused by taking medication, is affecting their ability they must inform the manager and seek medical advice. The nursery manager or Deputy Manager will decide if a staff member is fit to work, including circumstances where other staff members notice changes in behaviour suggesting a person may be under the influence of medication. This decision will include any medical advice obtained by the individual or from an occupational health assessment.

Where staff may occasionally or regularly need medication, any such medication must be kept in the person's Bag out of reach and sight, if a member of staff needs easy access to the medication such as an asthma inhaler it may be kept in a safe but accessible place for staff (Medication Box). In all cases it must be stored out of reach of the children. It must not be kept in the first aid box and should be labelled with the name of the member of staff.

1.7 Storage

All medication for children must have the child's name clearly written on the original container and kept in a closed box, which is out of reach of all children.

Emergency medication, such as inhalers and EpiPens, will be within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need, but will remain out of children's reach.

Any antibiotics requiring refrigeration must be kept in a fridge inaccessible to children, named and in its original container.

All medications must be in their original containers, labels must be legible and not tampered with or they will not be given. All prescription medications should have the pharmacist's details and notes attached to show the dosage needed and the date the prescription was issued. This will all be checked, along with expiry dates, before staff agree to administer medication.