



## **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. We ensure that where medicines are necessary to maintain health of the child, they are given correctly and in accordance with legal requirements.

In many cases, it is possible for children's GPs 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, especially a baby/child under two, it is advised that the parent keeps the child at home for the first 48 hours to ensure there are no adverse effects, as well as to give time for the medication to take effect.

When a child is prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep their child off from nursery for the first 24 hours of starting them in case of any reactions that may occur regardless of whether they have taken these types of antibiotics previously.

Staff are responsible for the correct administration of medication to children and must ensure that parent consent forms have been completed, that medicines are stored correctly and that records are kept according to procedures. There will always be 2 members of staff present when administering medication.

### **Procedures**

- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- We only usually administer medication when it has been prescribed for a child by a doctor (or other medically qualified person). It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.

- Non-prescription medication, such as eye drops for conjunctivitis or for pain / fever relief (e.g. Calpol) and teething gel, may be administered, but only with prior written consent of the parent and only when there is a health reason to do so, such as a 38 degree high temperature. Children under the age of 16 years are never given medicines containing aspirin unless prescribed specifically for that child by a doctor. The administering of unprescribed medication is recorded in the same way as any other medication. Only qualified staff will administer medicine.
- Calpol will not be administered by staff throughout the day for conditions such as colds – we believe that if a child is so unwell that they require medication, then they are not well enough to be at nursery. In the event that a child becomes unwell whilst at the setting, parents will be called to collect their child.
- Calpol will be administered for pain relief for teething but for no more than 3 consecutive days.
- Children's prescribed medicines are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children. On receiving the medication, the member of staff checks that it is in date and prescribed specifically for the current condition.
- Parents must give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The staff member receiving the medication will ask the parent to sign a consent form stating the following information. No medication may be given without these details being provided:
  - the full name of child and date of birth;
  - the name of medication and strength;
  - the dosage and times to be given in the setting;
  - the method of administration;
  - how the medication should be stored and its expiry date;
  - When last dose should be taken by;
  - any possible side effects that may be expected; and
  - the signature of the parent, their printed name and the date.
- The administration of medicine is recorded accurately on our medication form each time it is given and is signed by the person administering the medication and a witness. Parents are shown the record at the end of the day and asked to sign the record form to acknowledge the administration of the medicine. The medication form records the:
  - name of the child;
  - name of the medication;

- date and time of the dose;
  - dose given;
  - signature of the person administering the medication and a witness; and
  - parent's signature.
- We use a Medication form for recording the administration of medicine.
  - If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, we obtain individual training 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.
  - We monitor the medication records to look at the frequency of medication given in the setting. For example, a high incidence of antibiotics being prescribed for a number of children at similar times may indicate a need for better infection control. Advice will be given to parents regarding safe amounts of Calpol as it is recommended that a child does not take this for longer than 3 days in a row.

### **Storage of medicines**

- All medication is stored safely in a locked cupboard or refrigerated as required. 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 to be administered on a regular or as-and-when- required basis. We have an appointed person to check that any medication held in the setting, is in date and return any out-of-date medication back to the parent.

- *medicines are stored in:*
- A locked Medicine cabinet located in the kitchen.

## **Children who have long term medical conditions and who may require ongoing medication**

- We carry out a risk assessment for each child with a long term medical condition that requires on-going medication. This is the responsibility of our manager alongside the key person and 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 form part of the risk assessment.
- The risk assessment includes vigorous activities and any other 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 advice is sought from the child's GP if necessary where there are concerns.
- An individual health plan for the child is drawn up with the parent; outlining the key person's role and what information must be shared with other adults who care for the child.
- The individual health plan should include the measures to be taken in an emergency.
- We review the individual health plan every six months, or more frequently 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 individual health plan and each contributor, including the parent, signs it.

### **Managing medicines on trips and outings**

- If children are going on outings, the key person for the child will accompany the children 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 and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form and the medicine form to record when it has been given.

- 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 and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form signed by the parent.
- This procedure should be read alongside the outings procedure.

This policy was adopted by Little Squirts Preschool on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 (review date 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)

Signed.....

Name.....

Role.....