

# **Illness/Infection and medication policy**

In the interests of all children and staff, children that are unwell should not attend nursery. Young children pass on infections rapidly because they are not able to cover their mouths when coughing, blow their own noses when they have a cold etc. They are therefore a source of infection to each other and to staff. Furthermore, if children are unwell or are in the process of recovery, they themselves are susceptible to contracting other infections that may be present in the nursery population.

Please note that the nursery will follow guidelines published by the Department for Health and also Stockport and Trafford local health protection teams to ensure we are supporting the health of children across the area.

Excluding children that are unwell from the nursery helps to maintain a healthy environment for everyone and reduces the amount of medication on the premises. It will be the nursery's decision whether to accept a child to nursery or to send a child home if we believe that the child is too ill to attend nursery. This is in the best interests of the child and other children and staff potentially exposed to illness.

Medicines on the premises introduce health and safety risks to all children. Medicine's will be kept in a lockable cabinet throughout the day and returned to parents upon arrival. Medicine that requires refrigerated storage will be kept in the fridge. All medication must be double bagged in nappy sacks or a medication tub and a white label clearly stating the child's full name should be put on the outside. Nursery bags must be checked daily to ensure they do not contain any medication. The child's key person is responsible for maintaining medicines in the cabinet and fridge and to ensure that medicines are returned to parents.

## **STATEMENT OF VALUES**

- We believe that children deserve the right to be cared for in a healthy environment.
- The nursery is committed to ensuring, as far as possible, that children are not exposed to infectious agents.
- We wish to minimize disruption to parents/carers working life, at the same time enabling a full recovery of the child and promote future good health.
- We are determined to ensure that no children in our nursery are at risk from the introduction of medicines on the premises.

## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

- 1 We intend to provide a healthy environment for children and staff.
- 2 We intend to exclude unwell children from the nursery if we feel that it is the interest of the child or the rest of the children in the nursery.
- 3 We intend to enable children suffering from chronic illness such as asthma and eczema to attend nursery. In these circumstances we will administer medication as necessary throughout the day as prescribed by a medical practitioner. Parents will be asked to sign continuous medication forms to allow staff to administer such medication on a daily or regular basis.
- 4 Any children suffering from asthma must have an inhaler that stays on site at all times so the child is never without their inhaler.
- 5 We will notify parents if their child falls ill during the nursery day and request that their child is

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collected if necessary.

- 6 We will provide nursing care to a sick child who falls ill during the nursery day, until parents/carers arrive.
- 7 We will administer antibiotic medication during the day to a child who needs to complete their course of antibiotics if:
  1. The child has begun the course whilst at home (they must have had at least one dose of the medication at home and stay at home for 2 hours after this ), and is not contagious and is well in themselves. We will give the first dose of antibiotics if a child has been on these antibiotics before and has had no reaction (parents must confirm by email that the child has had these before and they had no reaction)
  2. The parent/carer signs the relevant medical consent forms
  3. The medicine is correctly labelled and has been prescribed specifically for that child for the illness at that time and not for a previous case of the illness. Please note that the only unprescribed medicines we will give are eye drops/cream for over 2 year old's, teething gels/liquids and creams used to treat eczema, we will also give piriton for hay fever/allergies/allergic reactions
  4. We can give more than one dose throughout the day if required.

PLEASE NOTE WE CAN ONLY GIVE THE DOSE STATED ON THE LABEL. THE LABEL MUST INCLUDE CHILD'S FULL NAME, DATE, DOSAGE. IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE LABELED BOX WE CANNOT GIVE THE MEDIATION OF ANY TYPE THIS INCLUDES INHALERS.

In an emergency situation we keep doses of Calpol and Piriton in the medicine cabinet. This will be administered as a first aid procedure only after every effort to receive verbal consent is given beforehand. Only a qualified first aider will administer this medication witnessed by another member of staff. The decision whether or not to administer Calpol or Piriton as a first aid procedure will be taken by a member of the management team. Examples would be a dangerously high temperature which has not been reduced by any means (i.e. over **38.00** degrees Celsius for over 1s and **37.5** degrees for under 1s) or suspicious rash or swelling causing substantial discomfort. The dosage administered will be in accordance with the manufacturers recommended dosage, however the maximum we will be able to administer is 5ml, the amount of Calpol the child has previously received, and the child's age and weight. The manager will take the decision based on the individual child and circumstances as to whether parents/carers are required to collect their child.

Common childhood ailments such as nappy rash, allergies etc., may be experienced by many young children whilst at nursery. During this time, we are able to apply creams and antihistamines to alleviate any discomfort. Consent to administer each medication must be signed for on a medication consent form before the treatment can begin at nursery. Antihistamines must be prescribed.

We follow the HSE regulations on childhood illness and exclusion periods for schools and early years' settings– we have attached a copy of the guidelines that we will follow – if there are any changes to the HSE recommendations we will update our policies according to these standards.

For children who have a medical condition we would ensure that a health plan form is put in place a health plan form which we would sit down with the child's parents/carers and go through. This form will be used to ensure all details regarding medication/care of that child are recorded and a clear plan is in place for the staff team to follow.

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