

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 Local Health Protection teams to ensure we are supporting the health of children across the area.

As a nursery we will ask for a child to be diagnosed by a GP or relevant medical professional for a diagnosis if the illness or rash is unclear as to what it is.

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 them home if we believe that the child is too ill to attend. 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. Medicines will be kept in a cabinet throughout the day and returned to parents upon arrival. Medicine that requires refrigerated storage will be kept in the fridge in a secure container or doubled nappy sacks, labelled clearly with the child's name. Nursery rucksacks 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 and that the medication form is signed at the end of the child's day.

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.
- To work alongside parents to ensure children get all doses of medication - these doses must be split between home and nursery.
- 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 in 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

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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 For any child who has an epi-pen we must have 2 at nursery at all times, in case one fails or the child needs a second dose.
- 6 We will notify parents if their child falls ill during the nursery day and request that their child is collected if necessary.
- 7 We will provide nursing care to a sick child who falls ill during the nursery day, until parents/carers arrive.

We will administer antibiotic medications during the day to a child who needs to complete their course of antibiotics if:

1. The child began 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. The only exception to this are antibiotic creams or eye drops where children can attend straight away.
2. The parent/carer signs the relevant medical consent forms on arrival and on collection following administration.
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 illness. Please note that the only unprescribed medicines we will give are eye drops/cream for over 2 year old's, teething gels and creams used to treat eczema. We will also give Piriton for hay fever/allergies/allergic reactions with prior written consent.
4. We can give more than one dose throughout the day if required as per the prescription. Eg is a child needed 4 doses throught the day we could give 2 and 2 would be given at home. If a child needs 3 doses of less in a day then only 1 would be given at nursey and 2 at home.
5. PLEASE NOTE: We can only give the dose stated on the label. The label must include child's full name, date prescribed, dosage. If we do not have the labelled box we CANNOT give the medication of any type, this includes inhalers.
6. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that the labelled box/container is provided with ALL medications.
7. It is also the staff members' responsibility who takes the child on arrival to ensure ALL prescribed medications are in their labelled box/container before allowing parents to leave

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their child.

Administering of prescribed medication - ONLY management and senior practitioners can administer ANY FORM of antibiotic medications, including eye drops, nasal or throat sprays. A member of staff MUST witness every dose and sign the medicine forms accordingly. If a member of management is not available eg trip then a Level 3 qualified practitioner has permission to administer.

Administering of prescribed creams, eg; prescribed skin creams OR unprescribed medications eg; eczema creams - ONLY fully qualified practitioners can administer but can be witnessed by a second fully qualified practitioner, both signing the medication forms. Children can apply their own lip balm to chapped lips. Please note that we cannot apply any creams that have been decanted into a unlabeled pot.

Please note that any medications that are not registered with MHRA (Medicines healthcare regulatory agency) will not be administered.

PLEASE NOTE: Epi pens, inhalers, teething gels/granules and nappy creams can be administered by any staff member without a witness where required.

- 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 fully qualified practitioner will administer this medication witnessed by a member of management. The decision whether 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 manufacturer's recommended dosage, however the maximum we will be able to administer is 5ml. The manager will take the decision based on the individual child and circumstances as to whether parents/carers are required to collect their child.
- If your child has been given Nurofen/Ibuprofen at home prior arriving at nursery and within four hours needs Calpol, you will be required to collect your child immediately.

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.

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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 care plan is put in place, where we would sit down with the child's parents/carers and go through in detail. 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. Copies of these will be stored in both the child's classroom and office