

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, for administering medicines. It must include systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medicines, and for keeping this information up-to-date.

'Little Nippers' Mevagissey Pre-School

6.1 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 prescribed 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 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 there are no adverse effects, as well as to give time for the medication to take effect.

These procedures are written in line with 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. We notify our insurance provider of all required conditions, as laid out in our insurance policy.

Procedures

- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- Only medication prescribed by a doctor (or other medically qualified person) is administered. It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
- Non-prescription medication, such as pain or fever relief (eg Calpol) will not be given by staff unless prescribed by a doctor.

- All parents are asked to sign a consent form on enrolment at the pre-school to allow us to use an in ear thermometer and administer Calpol in the event of a high temperature. This is to prevent a febrile convulsion. Parents will be contacted by telephone and asked to collect their child as soon as possible in this instance. Children under the age of 16 year are never given medicines containing Aspirin unless prescribed specifically for that child by a doctor. The administering of un-prescribed medication is recorded in the same way as any other medication.
- 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 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:
 - - the full name of child and date of birth;
 - - the name of medication and strength;
 - - who prescribed it; i.e doctor, nurse, hospital
 - - time of the last dose given
 - - time the medicine is to be given in the setting
 - - the dosage to be given in the setting;
 - - how the medication should be stored and its expiry date;
 - - any possible side effects that may be expected; and
 - - the signature of the parent, their printed name and the date.

The child's key worker, or, in her absence the setting manager will receive the medicine and will ask the parent to sign a consent form.

All staff will be made aware of these arrangements, verbally by the setting manager and he/she will also instruct the staff to read this policy.

- The administration of medicine is recorded accurately in our medication record book each time it is given and is signed by the key person/manager and a witness. Parents are shown the record at the end of the day and asked to sign the record book to acknowledge the administration of the medicine. The medication record book records the:
 - name of the child;
 - name and strength of the medication;
 - date and time of the dose;
 - dose given and method;
 - signature of the person administering the medication and a witness who verifies that the medication has been given correctly
 - parent's signature (at the end of the day)

- We use a Medication Record book for recording the administration of medicine and comply with the detailed procedures set out in that publication.
- If the administration of prescribed medication require 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 to 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 record book 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.

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. Key persons check that any medication held in the setting, is in date and return any out-of-date medication back to the parent.

Medicine is kept in the locked blue cupboard or in a sealed box in the refrigerator that is situated in the kitchen area of the pre-school room. All staff are made aware of these details verbally by the setting manager, and he/she also instructs them to read this policy

Children who have long term medical conditions and who may require 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 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.

- 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 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 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 and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form to record when it has been given, including all the details that need to be recorded in the medication record as stated 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 and the 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

- The Human Medicines Regulations (2012)

Further guidance

- Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings (DfES 2005)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	'Little Nippers' Pre-School Management Committee	<i>(name of provider)</i>
Held on	18th November 2022	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	2023	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory	Shelley Farmer	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair,)	Pre-school Manager	

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Medication Administration Record (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2017)
- Daily Register and Outings Record (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2018)