

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

We at Sunnymede Pre-school must have and implement this 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.

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 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, 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. Our staff are responsible for the correct administration of medication to children for whom they are the key person or onsite first aider. 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 or buddy, the deputy 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.
- 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 pain or fever relief (e.g. Calpol), 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 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 un-prescribed medication is recorded in the same way as any other medication.

- Children's prescribed medicines are stored in their original containers, in a plastic box or similar container and 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;
 - who prescribed it;
 - the dosage and times to be given in the setting;
 - the method of administration;
 - 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 administration of medicine is recorded accurately in each child's medication record sheet each time it is given and is signed by the person administering the medication. 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.
- If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, we obtain individual training for the relevant member/s of staff by a health professional - there may be a time delay while accessing training, in this case the parent would have to attend to administer such medication until staff have been adequately trained..
- 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 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 one of our cupboards or refrigerated as required. As 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/first aider check that any medications held in the setting, are in date and return any out-of-date medication back to the parent.

All medication brought into the pre-school from the parents is stored in the appropriate room for the age of the child in the cupboard in a container marked Children's Medication. Individual medication is stored in it's own container marked with the child's name and inside the dose/amount of administration needed for the child at one time. All staff are made aware of all children in the setting with medical conditions either at staff meetings and in the relevant Meeting Minutes, or by word of mouth during a session.

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

- 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. A risk assessment is activated and 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/lead supervisor of the role and what information must be shared with other adults who care for the child.
- The health care plan should include the measures to be taken in an emergency.

- We review the health care plan with the parent as and when necessary. This includes reviewing the medication, e.g. changes to the medication or the dosage, any side effects noted etc.
- Parents/health professional to provide a copy of the health care plan and each contributor, including the parent.

Managing medicines on trips and outings

- If children are going on outings, a member of staff will accompany the children with a risk assessment 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 a card to record when it has been given, including all the details that need to be recorded in the medication record as stated above. For medication dispensed by a hospital pharmacy, where the child's details are not on the dispensing label, we will record the circumstances of the event and hospital instructions as relayed by the parents.
- 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.
- This procedure should be read alongside the outings procedure.

Legal framework

- The Human Medicines Regulations (2012)

This policy was adopted by

Sunnymede Pre-school

On

3rd April 2019

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Medication Record (2013)
- Daily Register and Outings Record (2012)