

Managing Children Who Are Sick or Infectious Policy

Aim:

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection or viruses and bacterial infections.

Method:

Procedure for children with allergies

When parents enrol their children at the preschool they are asked if the child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form and an allergy risk assessment is completed. The allergy risk assessment should be shared with staff and stored with the child's personal file. The risk assessment details the following:

- The allergen (i.e. substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc.)
- The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reactions, including rash, reddening of the skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
- What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used e.g. Epipen, antihistamine.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
- Review

Where medication is required to be kept on site, it should be prescribed by a GP or other health professional e.g. consultant nurse or pharmacist. A Prescribed Medication form is completed and the medication procedure should be followed.

If special medication is required e.g. Epipen, training will be sought for the staff either from the parent or health professional. Staff trained in how to administer the medication should be recorded on the child's allergy risk assessment form.

Parents are made aware at enrolment that food containing nuts or nut products are to be brought into the preschool with a heightened awareness at special events such as party days.

Insurance

The preschool insurance policy will automatically include children with any disability or allergy but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to. For children suffering life threatening conditions or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from your insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

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At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and follow procedures based on advice given in Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Setting (DfES 2005)

Oral Medication

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to the insurance provider.

Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or health professional or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written upon them. Parents must give signed permission for staff to administer the medication with clear instructions.

Risk assessments procedures cover the correct storage and administration of medications. All medication is stored in the kitchen when not in use. If a child is due medication during the course of the day, it will be administered by the keyworker in line with the medication policy.

Life Saving Medications and Invasive Treatments

Adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc.) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of diazepam (for epilepsy) must have the following in place before they can be administered by staff:

- Letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child condition and what medication if any is to be administered.
- Written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication; and
- Proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist, or a community paediatric nurse.

Copies of these documents should be sent to the insurance provider for appraisal and a premium will usually have to be paid. Confirmation will then be issued in writing confirming that the insurance has been extended. Until this has been received no treatment can be administered by staff.

Keyperson for Special Needs Children

Children who require help with tubes to help them with everyday living such as breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc. require a named worker to support them at preschool. Prior consent is required by the child's parents to give treatment and medication prescribed by the child's GP or health professional.

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The keyperson should receive relevant medical training and experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instruction from parents or guardians or who have qualifications.

Copies of all the documents relating to these children must first be sent to the insurance provider where a premium might be due. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return before the child can enrol in the preschool.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – is required to leave the setting. The Preschool Leader or keyperson should contact the parents or guardians and ask them to collect or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.

If a child has a temperature in excess of 37.7C they are considered to have fever. They are kept cool, by removing top clothing, tepid sponging their heads and kept away from draughts. Their temperature should be monitored using a non-invasive thermometer – kept in the first aid box.

In extreme cases of emergency, the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.

Playdays requests that children are checked by a health professional before they return to preschool. We reserve the right to refuse entry to any child showing signs of illness including but not limited to fever, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours from the first dose before they return to preschool.

After vomiting and diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours after the last episode.

Playdays follow the guidelines set by the Health Protection Agency in how long children should be excluded from preschool following an illness. This is evidenced in the 'Spotty Book' and is available from the office and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of notifiable diseases

If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1998, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency. When Playdays becomes aware or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs OFSTED and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

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HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Procedure

HIV virus like any other virus such as hepatitis (A, B or C) are spread through the body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

Single use gloves and aprons are to be worn at all time when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit. Soiled clothing should not be cleaned in the preschool. It is to be double bagged and sent home for the parent.

Spills of blood, urine, faeces and vomit should be cleaned using a mild disinfectant solution and mops, and cloths should be disposed of with clinical waste.

Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are thoroughly cleaned using a disinfectant. Soft furnishing should be stripped and washed in a machine at 90C.

Nits and Head Lice

Nits and head lice are not excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared. On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Playdays recommends the use of the Nitty Gritty comb which removes head lice, nits and unhatched eggs without the use of chemicals. It can be purchased online at nitty-gritty.co.uk or in pharmacies. It is also available on prescription

Legal Framework

DfE – Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings 2005

Further Guidance

Spotty Book – Guidance for Schools 2016

Early Years Foundation Stage – Welfare Requirements

www.allergyuk.org