

Health procedures

3.2 Administration of medicine

Key persons are responsible for administering medication to their key children; ensuring consent forms are completed, medicines stored correctly, and records kept.

Administering medicines during the child's session will only be done if necessary.

When a child is prescribed a new medicine we ask that parents keep them at home for 48 hours to ensure no adverse effect, and to give it time to take effect. The manager must check the insurance policy document to be clear about what conditions must be reported to the insurance provider.

If your child shows symptoms of illness and they require medicine such as Calpol before their session, please do not bring them to us but keep them at home to monitor their health. This helps us to prevent anything being spread to other children and our staff team.

Consent for administering medicine

- Only a person with parental responsibility (PR), or a foster carer may give consent. A childminder, grandparent, parent's partner who does not have PR, cannot give consent.
- When bringing in medicine, the parent informs their key person/back up key person, or senior childcare leader if the key person is not available.
- Staff who receive the medication, check it is in date and prescribed specifically for the current condition. It must be in the original container (not decanted into a separate bottle). It must be labelled with the child's name and original pharmacist's label.
- Medication dispensed by a hospital pharmacy will not have the child's details on the label but should have a dispensing label. Staff must check with parents and record the circumstance of the events and hospital instructions as relayed to them by the parents.
- Members of staff who receive the medication ask the parent to sign a consent form stating the following information. No medication is given without these details:
 - full name of child and date of birth
 - name of medication and strength
 - who prescribed it
 - dosage to be given
 - how the medication should be stored and expiry date
 - a note of any possible side effects that may be expected
 - signature and printed name of parent and date

Storage of medicines

All medicines are stored safely.

- The key person is responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent.
- For some conditions, medication for an individual child may be kept at the setting. A healthcare plan form must be completed. Key persons check that it is in date and return any out-of-date medication to the parent.
- Parents do not access where medication is stored, to reduce the possibility of a mix-up with medication for another child, or staff not knowing there has been a change.

Record of administering medicines

A record of medicines administered is kept in a file in the child's room.

The medicine record:

- name of child
- name and strength of medication
- the date and time of dose
- dose given and method
- signed by key person and witness
- verified by parent signature at the end of the day

A witness signs the medicine record to verify that they have witnessed medication being given correctly according to the procedures here.

- No child may self-administer. If children are capable of understanding when they need medication, e.g., for asthma, they are encouraged to tell their key person what they need. This does not replace staff vigilance in knowing and responding.
- The medication records are monitored to look at the frequency of medication being given. 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.

Children with long term medical conditions requiring ongoing medication

- A care plan is carried out for children that require ongoing medication. This is the responsibility of the setting manager and key person. Other medical or social care personnel may be involved in the risk assessment.

- Parents contribute to care plan. They are shown around the setting, understand routines and activities and discuss any risk factor for their child.
- For some medical conditions, key staff will require basic training to understand it and know how medication is administered.
- The care plan includes any activity that may give cause for concern regarding an individual child's health needs.
- The care plan form is completed fully with the parent; outlining the key person's role and what information is shared with other staff who care for the child.

Managing medicines on trips and outings

- Children are accompanied by their key person, or other staff member who is fully informed about their needs and medication.
- Medication is taken in a plastic box labelled with the child's name, name of medication, and a record of administration is completed.
- If a child on medication has to be taken to hospital, the child's medication is taken clearly labelled as above.

Staff taking medication

Staff taking medication must inform their manager. The medication must be stored securely in staff lockers or a secure area away from the children. The manager must be made aware of any contra-indications for the medicine so that they can risk assess and take appropriate action as required. Staff have a care plan in place as needed.