**6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies**

**Policy statement**

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

**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 – the manager/deputy calls the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
* If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
* The child’s temperature is taken using a forehead thermometer strip kept in the first aid box.
* If the child is at risk of febrile convulsions, Calpol or another similar analgesic should be kept on site, so that in the case of the child’s temperature not going down and being is worryingly high, then we may give them some **after** first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child. A risk assessment (health care plan) should be complete.
* In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
* Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
* After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
* Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
* The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from

www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\_C/1194947358374 and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles. If your child contracts an infectious disease they may not attend preschool until they have recovered. Following is a list of diseases which require exclusion. These exclusions apply to staff and Children.

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*Reporting of ‘notifiable diseases’*

* If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (notification) Regulations2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
* When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England and acts on any advice given.

# *HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure*

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

* Wear Single use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
* Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
* Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
* Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

# *Nits and head lice*

* Nits and head lice are not an 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.

**Procedures for children with allergies**

* When children start at the setting we ask if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
* If a child has an allergy, we complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
* The allergen (i.e. the 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 reaction, including rash, reddening of 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).
* Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
* Review measures.
* This risk assessment is kept in the child’s personal file and a copy is displayed where staff can see it and a photo poster is displayed above the snack bar and by the First Aid Kit where staff can see it.
* Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
* Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

*Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities*

* If necessary our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

**At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage**

#### *Oral Medication*

* Asthma inhalers are now regarded as "oral medication" by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider.Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
* We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
* We adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
* We must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider
* *.Life saving medication & invasive treatments*

These include 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).

* The setting must have:
	+ a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's 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 all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.*

#### Key person for special needs children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.

* Prior written consent from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
* The Key person must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or guardians.
* Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

If we are unsure about any aspect, we contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| This policy was adopted at a meeting of |  | name of setting |
| Held on |  | (date) |
| Date to be reviewed |  | (date) |
| Signed on behalf of the management committee |  |
| Name of signatory |  |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) |  |

**Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

* Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (2009)
* Medication Administration Record (2013)