

## **Managing Children Who Are Sick, Infectious or With Allergies Policy**

### **Policy statement**

We aim to provide care for our children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promoting health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

### **Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – a member of staff will call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using an ear thermometer, kept in the first aid box.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to ensure their child has fully recovered, seeking medical advice if necessary; 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 or vomiting, we ask parents 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.
- We do not keep any medicines for general use. All medicines are individually supplied for each child by their parents and exclusively for the use of that individual child.
- We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from [www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1194947358374](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

### *Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'*

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our 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, as well as sanitising absorbent powder which can then be swept up, bagged and disposed of in the clinical waste; 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*

- Parents should inform us if they identify cases of head lice. We will treat the information in confidence.
- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice at nursery, we inform parents and ask them 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 their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Application Form and in supporting documentation.
- If a child has an allergy, we consult with the parents before the child starts at nursery to ensure we have any necessary information.
- 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.
- The information is added to our allergies and medication list which is displayed where our staff can see it.
- 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.
- Parents are asked to keep us up-to-date with any allergies that may improve or worsen.

*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 we ensure that the administration of medication is 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 and invasive treatments:
 

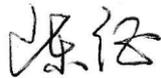
These include adrenaline injections (EpiPens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

  - We must have:
    - communication 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 our staff to administer medication; and
  - proof of training in the administration of such medication e.g. an up-to-date Paediatric First Aid qualification.
- Advice is sought from our insurance provider to ensure we have appropriate cover and where necessary copies of documents will be sent to the insurance provider.
- Staff working with 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 must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
    - Staff must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or guardians.
    - Advice is sought from our insurance provider to ensure we have appropriate cover.
  - If we are unsure about any aspect, we will contact our insurance provider, and where necessary copies of documents will be sent to the insurance provider.

**Signature:**



**Date: 07.03.2019**

**Date to be reviewed: 01.03.2020**