

Managing children who are Sick, Infectious, or with Allergies

6.0

Policy Statement

We aim to 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 trigger.

The Woodshed Nursery staff are not able to administer medications to children. All children should remain at home while they complete the required medication treatment.

The Woodshed team are able to maintain / administer Epi pen treatment, Inhalers, Antihistamine (emergency use only) Calpol, Topical treatments, Teething gel, Nappy cream and Sun lotion.

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 – our manager / team 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 a tympanic thermometer. This thermometer will be always kept in the main 1st Aid bag.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then we may give them Calpol, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for very young children. Permissions will normally have been sought for agreed medications at registration and will be kept on the child's file. Parents will be asked to sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- 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, diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

- Where children have been prescribed medication by the GP we ask parents to keep children at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After diarrhoea, we ask parents 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 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 and includes common childhood illnesses.

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 will inform Ofsted and will contact Public Health England, and will act immediately 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 (for Ticks please see our separate policy on the Management of Ticks)

- 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, we inform all parents 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 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 if possible and review measures.

This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed where staff can see it.

- Any identified allergy will be risk assessed and measures put in place to manage that risk wherever appropriate./ possible We 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 our staff/to administer medication in line with our policy and
 - Written confirmation that our insurance can be extended prior to admission of the child or prior to the child returning to the setting.

Please see the government exclusions table for infection control and within this policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/children-and-young-people-settings-tools-and-resources>

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

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