

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health**

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

## **Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies.**



### **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.

### **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 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 over 38.5°C, 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 'thermo-scan' in ear thermometer or forehead thermometer strip.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then we may give them paracetamol or another similar analgesic, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called, and the parent informed – If a child under the age of 12 months has a temperature over 39.0 degrees a medical professional may be contacted for advice such as NHS direct.
- 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, 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 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities> 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, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.

- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager informs Ofsted and the local Health Protection Agency, and act 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 polythene or vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Rinse soiled clothing and either bag it for parents to collect or launder it in the setting.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces, or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

#### *Nits and head lice, and Threadworm*

- 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.
- If children are discovered to have Threadworm, then they are not to attend the setting until the whole family have received treatment.

### **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.
  - Review measures.
- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed where our 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.
- Procedures are put in place to manage the food given to children throughout the day to ensure children with allergies do not get given foods they cannot eat. Staff are given full details of these procedures during their induction and the procedures are set out in the 'Food and Drink' Policy.

#### *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'. 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.
- 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:
    - 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; 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.
- 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 must be obtained 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.
- COVID-19 and other new infectious disease. Government guidelines to be followed for children and staff.

For more details see COVID-19 Policy

This policy was adopted by

Ladybirds Day Nursery

On

1/11/20

Date to be reviewed

1/11/21

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Janine Lissack

Role of signatory

Owner