

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.

We promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic trigger.

We believe that it is in the best interest of children who are unwell to be in the care of family members or close carers and not at preschool. We ask that parents do not bring their child to us if they are unwell or have been given an analgesic (such as Calpol) before arrival at preschool.

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. The child will be encouraged to settle in a quiet location and will be closely monitored by staff until they are collected.
- If a child develops symptoms which could be Covid 19, such as a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell, they will be separated from the other children and cared for by an adult dressed in PPE (mask, apron, gloves) until they are collected.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool until a carer arrives, by removing top clothing but keeping them away from draughts.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- If appropriate, parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the pre-school; 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 pre-school.
- In the case of 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 use list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles. This is also displayed on the back of our main door.

- If a member of a child's household tests positive for Covid 19, the child must either
 1. Have a negative Lateral Flow Test
 2. Have a negative PCR Test
 3. Isolate at home for 10 days
 before they return to the setting.

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, 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.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

Head lice

- 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 pre-school 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 summary is displayed where our staff can see it. A reminder for staff will be placed on the inside of preschool food cupboard door. This will usually include a photo of the child
- A health care plan will also be completed.
- We do not allow nuts or Frubes in the pre-school, and parents are notified so that nuts and frubes are not included in children's lunches. If nuts or Frubes are accidentally present in a child's lunch box, they will usually be removed and returned to the parent when the child is collected. The parent reminded not to include nuts or Frubes in future.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

We always comply with the terms of our insurance policy for covering the administration of medication. These terms are as follows:

a) In all cases:

- The parent/guardian of each child attending the Group must provide details of any known allergy to medication suffered by their child. Such details to be recorded by you or your employees in the drugs/medicine register (*also called the Medication Record Book*) and consulted before any emergency administration of drugs or medicines.
- The drug or medicine must have been prescribed by the child's General Practitioner or consultant or given to the Group by the child's parent/guardian or the child's General Practitioner or consultant.
- The drug or medicine must be kept in a secure place with access only by authorised persons.
- A clear label, with the child's name, must be attached to the drugs or medicine.
- A drugs/medicine register must be kept showing: (a) the child's name (b) type of drug/medicine administered (c) date and time administered (d) dosage (e) name and signature of person administering the drug/medicine (f) name and signature of witness (g) time of notification to child's parent/guardian when an administration of drug or medicine has been given in an emergency (h) note of any known allergy to medication suffered by children attending the Group.
- You must familiarise yourself and comply with all relevant requirements of their statutory registering authority concerning the administration of drugs and medicines.
- You must have a letter of authorisation from the child's parent/guardian containing clear instructions for the administration of non-prescribed drugs or medicines, prescribed oral medication or asthma inhalers. b) In cases where occasional, regular or emergency medication is required such as epipens, hypodermic injections or tubeadministered medication (but not including non-prescribed drugs or medicines, prescribed oral medication or asthma inhalers, which are dealt with under 3 a) above), you must comply with (i) to (vi) above AND IN ADDITION
- You must have a letter from the child's parent/guardian providing specific consent for you to administer the medication.

- If we require clarification of any of these terms, we contact our insurance provider (Morton Michel: 0330 058 9861, preschool@mortonmichel.com)
- If a medical condition is believed to increase our level of insurance risk, we inform our insurance provider.
- At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Further information

- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)
- Medication Administration Record (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2013)