



Latchingdon Pre-School

04 Health procedures

04.2 Administration of medicine

Key persons are responsible for administering medication to their key children but if they are unavailable or not able to administer the medication any pediatric first aider can, ensuring consent forms are completed, medicines stored correctly, and records kept.

Administering medicines during the child's session will only be done if necessary, and where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent/carer.

Staff must have training if the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge.

If a child has not been given a prescription medicine before, especially a baby/child under two, it is advised that parents/carers keep them at home for 48 hours to ensure there are no adverse effects, and to give it time to take effect. The setting managers must check the insurance policy document to be clear about what conditions must be reported to the insurance provider.

Consent for administering medication

- Only a person with parental responsibility (PR), or a foster carer may give consent. A childminder, grandparent, parent/carer's partner who does not have PR, cannot give consent.
- When bringing in medicine, the parent/carer informs their key person or a suitable staff member if the key person is not available. The setting manager should also be informed.

The staff member who assists the parents to complete the accident form will take the medication from the parent and check where it should be stored. If it needs to be refrigerated it is put in the fridge and all other staff members are told it is there. A note is written on the board on the fridge saying child's name and when it is to be administered.

- Staff who receive the medication, check it is in date and prescribed specifically for the current condition. It must be in the original container (not decanted into a separate bottle). It must be labelled with the child's name, the date of prescription and original pharmacist's label if prescribed.
- Medication dispensed by a hospital pharmacy will not have the child's details on the label but should have a dispensing label. Staff must check with parents/carers and record the circumstance of the events and hospital instructions as relayed to them by the parents/carers.

- Members of staff who receive the medication ask the parent/carer to sign a consent form stating the following information. No medication is given without these details:
 - full name of child and date of birth
 - name of medication and strength
 - Date of prescription
 - who prescribed it (if applicable)
 - dosage to be given
 - how the medication should be stored and expiry date
 - a note of any side effects that may be expected
 - signature and printed name of parent/carer and date

Storage of medicines

All medicines are stored safely. Refrigerated medication is stored separately in a marked box in the main kitchen fridge.

Medications that need to be refrigerated are put into the medication box in the fridge and staff are told that it is there. A note is also put on the front of the fridge saying the name of the child and the medication. Any medication that does not need to be refrigerated is put into a box and in the medication box next to the first aid box. A note is put on the fridge giving details about the medication. The staff member that signs the medication in tells all staff that a child needs medication to be administered.

- For some conditions, medication for an individual child may be kept at the setting. 04.2a Healthcare plan form must be completed. Key persons check that it is in date and return any out-of-date medication to the parent/carer.
- Parents/carers do not access where medication is stored, to reduce the possibility of a mix-up with medication for another child, or staff not knowing there has been a change.

Record of administering medicines

A record of medicines administered is kept by the register.

All staff members are shown how to complete the accident form as a part of their induction. The register is kept by the register

The medicine record, records:

- name of child

- name and strength of medication
- date of prescription
- the date and time of dose
- dose given and method
- signed by key person/setting manager
- verified by parent/carers signature at the end of the day

A witness signs the medicine record book to verify that they have witnessed medication being given correctly according to the procedures here.

- No child may self-administer. If children are capable of understanding when they need medication, e.g. for asthma, they are encouraged to tell their key person what they need. This does not replace staff vigilance in knowing and responding.
- The medication records are monitored to look at the frequency of medication being given. For example, a high incidence of antibiotics being prescribed for several children at similar times may indicate a need for better infection control.

Children with long term medical conditions requiring ongoing medication

- Risk assessment is carried out for children that require ongoing medication. This is the responsibility of the setting manager and key person. Other medical or social care personnel may be involved in the risk assessment.
- Parents/carers contribute to risk assessment. They are shown around the setting, understand routines and activities, and discuss any risk factor for their child.
- For some medical conditions, key staff will require basic training to understand it and know how medication is administered. Training needs are part of the risk assessment.
- Risk assessment includes any activity that may give cause for concern regarding an individual child's health needs.
- Risk assessment also includes arrangements for medicines on outings; advice from the child's GP's is sought, if necessary, where there are concerns.
- 04.2a Health care plan form is completed fully with the parent/carers; outlining the key person's role and what information is shared with other staff who care for the child.
- The plan is reviewed every six months (more if needed). This includes reviewing the medication, for example, changes to the medication or the dosage, any side effects noted, etc.

Managing medicines on trips and outings

- Children are accompanied by their key person, or other staff member who is fully informed about their needs and medication.
- Medication is taken in a plastic box labelled with the child's name, name of medication, copy of the consent form and a record is made when the medication is administered.
- The information is transferred onto the original consent form and the parent/carer signs it.
- If a child on medication must be taken to hospital, the child's medication is taken in a sealed plastic box clearly labelled as above.

Staff taking medication

Staff taking medication must inform their manager. The medication must be stored securely in a secure area away from the children. The manager must be made aware of any contra-indications for the medicine so that they can risk assess and take appropriate action as required.

Further guidance

Medication Administration Record (Alliance Publication)