Health procedures

**Administration of medicine**

Playgroup staff will administer prescribed medicines to children if requested by parents. However, wherever possible, the playgroup would prefer parents/carers to administer medicines to their children as this is likely to cause less distress. When this is not possible, prescribed medicines will be administered by the child’s key person. This will only be done after written consent is given, written consent should clearly state dosage, how the medicine is to be administered, the time the medicine is to be given and specific storage instructions and be signed by an adult with parental responsibility for the child. Records of consent are kept.

Administering medicines during the child’s session will only be done if absolutely necessary. If the medicine could reasonably be taken later in the day, staff will advise parents/carers that they should administer the medicines themselves.

If a child has not been given a prescription medicine before, in most circumstances, it is advised that parents/carers keep them at home for 48 hours to ensure no adverse effect, and to give it time to take effect. If necessary, the setting manager will check the insurance policy document to ~~be clear about~~ ascertain 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’s partner who does not have PR, cannot give consent.
* When bringing in medicine, the parent informs their key person/back up key person, or room senior if the key person is not available. The setting manager should be also be informed.
* Staff who receive the medication, check it is in date and prescribed specifically for the named child and the current condition. It must be in the original container (not, for example, decanted into a separate bottle). It must be labelled with the child’s name and original pharmacist’s label.
* 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 and record the circumstance of the events and hospital instructions as relayed to them by the parents.
* Members of staff who receive the medication will 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
* who prescribed it
* dosage to be given
* how the medication should be stored and expiry date
* a note of any possible side effects that may be expected
* signature and printed name of parent and date

**Storage of medicines**

All medicines are stored safely. Refrigerated medication is stored separately or clearly labelled in the milk kitchen fridge, or in a marked box in the main kitchen fridge.

* The key person is responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent /carer.
* For some conditions, medication for an individual child may be kept at the setting. A Healthcare plan form must be completed if the child does not already have a Healthcare plan drawn up by a medical professional. Key persons check that it is in date and return any out-of-date medication to the parent.
* Parents /carer do not have access to where medication is stored, this is 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 in the setting manager’s office.

The medicine record book records:

* name of child
* name and strength of medication
* the date and time of dose
* dose given and method
* signed by key person/setting manager
* verified by parent 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**

* A 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/carer 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 form 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.
* A Health care plan form is completed fully with the parent /carer 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 card to record administration, with details as above.
* The card is later stapled to the medicine record book and the parent signs it.
* If a child on medication has to 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 at work must inform their manager. The medication must be stored securely in staff lockers or 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](https://portal.eyalliance.org.uk/Shop#!prod/3a3f4ad6-7564-ea11-a811-000d3a0ba8fe/curr/GBP) (Early Years Alliance 2019)