



## **Promoting health and hygiene - Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious** (Including reporting notifiable diseases)

### **Policy statement**

We provide care for children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections.

### **Procedures for children with allergies**

- When parents start their children at the nursery they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form.
- If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment form is completed 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.
- This form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy of the allergy is displayed where staff can see it.
- Parents train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the nursery.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

### *Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities*

- The insurance will automatically 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 your insurance provider

must be obtained to extend the insurance.

**At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and follow procedures based on advice given in *Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings* (DfES 2005)**

#### *Oral Medication*

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as "oral medication" by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to your insurance provider.

- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
- The nursery must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
- The nursery must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider.

#### *Life saving medication & invasive treatments*

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).

- The nursery 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 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 - children requiring help with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.

- Prior written consent from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
- Key person to have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.

#### **Procedures for children who are sick or infectious**

- If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the manager or senior staff member, calls the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- Temperature is taken using an ear thermometer, which is kept in the first aid cabinet.
- In extreme cases of emergency the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 24 hours before returning to the nursery.
- After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours or until a formed stool is passed.
- The nursery has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk) and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

#### *Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'*

- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the nursery becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

#### *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.
- Single use plastic gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with urine or faeces.
- Single use vinyl/latex gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's clothing that is soiled with blood or vomit.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using general purpose cleaning solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a general purpose cleaning solution.

*Nits and head lice*

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.