

## 04 Health procedures

### Knutsford Community Preschool

#### 04.2 Administration of medicine

Trained staff are responsible for administering medication to children; ensuring consent forms are completed, medicines stored correctly and records kept.

Administering medicines during the child's session will only be done if absolutely necessary.

The setting manager 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's partner who does not have PR, cannot give consent.
- When bringing in medicine, the parent informs the Preschool manager/deputy and they will ask the parent to complete a consent form and this will be shared with all staff.
- 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 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 ask the parent 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 out of children's reach. Medication is stored separately or clearly labelled in a marked container in the main kitchen fridge if necessary.

- Staff are responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent.
- For some conditions, medication for an individual child may be kept at the setting. A Healthcare plan form must be completed. Staff members check that it is in date and return any out-of-date medication to the parent.
- Parents 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 near to the medicine box. All staff are aware and the procedure is consistent.

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 staff member/Preschool manager/deputy
- 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 a staff member 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 a number of 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 Preschool manager and deputy. Other medical or social care personnel may be involved in the risk assessment.
- Parents contribute to the risk assessment. They are shown around the Preschool, understand routines and activities and discuss any risk factor for their child.
- For some medical conditions, staff members will require basic training to understand it and know how medication is administered. Training needs is 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; outlining the staff members role and what information is shared with the team.
- The plan is reviewed every six months. 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 staff members who are 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 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)

Reviewed annually in November by Staff and Committee