



Health procedures

Administration of medicine

Key persons are responsible for administering medication to their key children; ensuring consent forms are completed, medicines stored correctly, and records kept.

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

If a child has not been given a prescription medicine before, especially a baby/child under two, it is advised that parents keep them at home for 48 hours to ensure no adverse effect, 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 informs their key person/back up key person, or room senior if the key person is not available. The setting manager should also be informed.

The Pre-school head teacher receives any medication and the parents complete the consent form. All staff are told of the medication and alarms are set when the doses are to be given.

- The Pre-school headteacher receives the medication, checks it is in date and prescribed specifically for the current condition. She ensures that it is in the original container (not decanted into a separate bottle) and is labelled with the child's name 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. The Pre-school headteacher will check with parents/carers and record the circumstance of the events and hospital instructions as relayed to them by the parents/carers.
- The Pre-school headteacher receives the medication asks 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 (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 or clearly labelled in the milk kitchen fridge, or in a marked box in the main kitchen fridge.

Medicines are stored in the first aid box in the fridge. The Pre-school headteacher sets an alarm for the times that the medication is expected to be taken and also talks to the child's key worker.

- The Pre-school headteacher 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. The Pre-school headteacher 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 in the cabinet in the kitchen. Staff have been shown how to complete the forms in the absence of the Pre-school headteacher.

The medicine record, records:

- name of child
- name and strength of medication
- the date and time of dose
- dose given and method
- signed by key person/Pre-school teacher
- verified by parent/carer 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/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 or electronic device 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 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 the Pre-school headteacher. The medication must be stored securely in a secure area away from the children. The Pre-school headteacher 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)