

Promoting health and hygiene

1.18 Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious

(Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy statement

At Tywardreath Preschool Playgroup we provide care for healthy 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 setting 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 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 setting.

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*

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 group 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 group must have the parents or carers prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider.

Lifesaving medication & invasive treatments - adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc)

The setting 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.

Copies of all three letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school's insurance Department for appraisal. Confirmation will then be issued in writing confirming that the insurance has been extended.

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.

Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

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 most senior staff member on session, 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.

In extreme cases of emergency, the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.

Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to nursery, the nursery can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.

After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours.

The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. This is displayed in the porch. The full list is obtainable from 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 setting 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 vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.

Soiled clothing is rinsed and either bagged for parents to collect or laundered in the nursery.

Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant 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 disinfectant.

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.