

Little Cuckoos Pre-School

Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

(Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy statement

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

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 Child's Key person calls the parents/Carer and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using an infra-red thermometer.
- 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 if necessary before returning them to the setting; **the setting 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 vomiting or diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours or until a formed stool is passed. (See additional information on last page)
- The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. In some cases a disease may not require exclusion, however it is the Manager and Committee's duty to protect the other children from contagious diseases. Therefore a Parent/Carer may be asked to exclude the child until contagious period/symptoms has passed. The full list is obtainable from
- www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374 and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles. Parents and carers may be referred to this document if staff believe a child should be excluded from the setting for medical reasons.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, 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. These items are disposed of or sent home in yellow, Hazardous waste bags
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect as above. If parent has given consent soiled underwear may be bagged and thrown away
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of as above
- 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.

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 flow chart 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 chart 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 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 Safeguarding and 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 setting 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 setting 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 and 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 provider 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 documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

Key person for special needs children - children requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.

- Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
- The key person must 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 Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

If you are unsure about any aspect, contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk.

Further guidance

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage March 2014

Additional information in cases of vomiting & diarrhoea

keep your child away from Cuckoos for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Help us to contain the virus

If it appears to be affecting more than one person in your household, please consider keeping your child at home to avoid spreading the virus. If the person/sibling dropping off/collecting your child has the virus please avoid coming into the setting.

(A copy of our policy, managing children who are sick is available on the website or see a member of staff)

The committee/Manager will undertake an annual review of this policy and remedy any deficiencies and weaknesses found without delay.

Updated 8th October 2025

Committee Chair - Arran Bennett