



5a. Medication

EYFS: 3.19, 3.45, 3.46

At Abbeydale Cottage Nursery we promote the good health of children attending nursery and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection (see sickness and illness policy). If a child requires medicine, we will obtain information about the child's needs for this and will ensure this information is kept up to date.

Please note that only a parent or person with parental responsibility can provide written authority for staff to administer any form of medication, creams, gels or drops. Where other persons requests staff to administer either prescription or non-prescription medicine, we will require:

- written confirmation with details of dosage, times to be administered and any side effects
- on Family by the parent/ person with parental responsibility before any medication is dispensed (email is acceptable if Family app cannot be accessed)
- a medication form must then be signed by the parent/person with parental responsibility as soon as is practicable

If any child is brought to the nursery in a condition in which he/she may require medication sometime during the day, a member of the management team will decide if the child is fit to be left at the nursery.

We follow strict guidelines when dealing with medication of any kind in the nursery and these are set out below.

Medication prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist

(Medicines containing aspirin or ibuprofen will only be given if prescribed by a doctor)

- Prescription medicine can only be given to the person named on the bottle for the dosage stated
- Medicines must be in their original containers
- Those with parental responsibility for any child requiring prescription medication should hand over the medication to the most appropriate member of staff, who will then note the details of the administration on the appropriate form and another member of staff
- Those with parental responsibility must give prior written permission for the administration of every medication. However, we will accept written permission once for a whole course of medication or for the ongoing use of a medication under the following circumstances:
 1. The written permission is only acceptable for that brand name of medication and cannot be used for similar types of medication, e.g. if the course of antibiotics changes, a new form will need to be completed



2. The dosage on the written permission is the only dosage that will be administered. We will not give a different dose unless a new form is completed
 3. Parents must notify us IMMEDIATELY in if the child's circumstances change, e.g. a dose has been given at home, or a change in strength/dose needs to be given.
- The nursery will not administer a dosage that exceeds the recommended dose on the instructions unless accompanied by written instructions from a relevant health professional such as a letter from a doctor or dentist
 - The staff member must ask the parent or person with parental responsibility when the child has last been given the medication before coming to nursery and record this information on the medication form. Similarly, when the child is picked up, staff must give precise details of the times and dosage given throughout the day. The parent's signature must be obtained at both times.
 - At the time of administering the medicine, a member of staff will ask the child to take the medicine or offer it in a manner acceptable to the child at the prescribed time and in the prescribed form. *(It is important to note that staff working with children are not legally obliged to administer medication)*
 - If the child refuses to take the appropriate medication then a note will be made on the form
 - Where medication is "essential" or may have side effects, discussion with the parent will take place to establish the appropriate response.

Non-prescription medication

(The nursery will not administer any non-prescription medication containing aspirin or ibuprofen without a prescription)

- The nursery will only administer non-prescription medication for a short initial period, dependant on the medication or the condition of the child. After this time medical attention should be sought
- Calpol can only be administered without a prescription for a maximum of 3 consecutive days in any event
- If the nursery feels the child would benefit from medical attention rather than non-prescription medication, we reserve the right to refuse nursery care until the child is seen by a medical practitioner
- If a child needs liquid paracetamol or similar medication (e.g. anti-histamine in certain circumstances) during their time at nursery and non has been provided, the nursery will provide one specific type of medication (e.g. Calpol or Piriton) should parents wish to use this
- On registration, parents will be asked if they would like to fill out a medication form to consent to their child being given a specific type of liquid paracetamol or anti-histamine in circumstances such as an increase in the child's temperature or a wasp or bee sting. This form will state the dose to be given, the circumstances in which this can be given e.g. the temperature increase of their child, the specific brand name or type of non-prescription medication and a signed statement to say that this may be administered in an emergency if the nursery CANNOT contact the parent
- An emergency nursery supply of fever relief (e.g. Calpol) and anti-histamines (e.g. Piriton) will be stored on site. This will be checked at regular intervals by



the designated trained first aider to make sure that it complies with any instructions for storage and is still in date

- If a child does exhibit the symptoms for which consent has been given to give non-prescription medication during the day the nursery will make every attempt to contact the child's parents. Where parents cannot be contacted then a member of the management team will take the decision as to whether the child is safe to have this medication based on the time the child has been in the nursery, the circumstances surrounding the need for this medication and the medical history of the child on their registration form.
- Giving non-prescription medication will be a last resort and the nursery staff will use other methods first to try and alleviate the symptoms, e.g. for an increase in temperature the nursery will remove clothing, use fanning, tepid cooling with a wet flannel. The child will be closely monitored until the parents collect the child
- Non-prescription cream for skin conditions e.g. Aveno or Sudocrem, will require prior written permission to be obtained from the parent and the onus is on the parent to provide the cream which should be clearly labelled with the child's name
- As with any kind of medication, staff will ensure that the parent is informed of any non-prescription medicines given to the child whilst at the nursery, together with the times and dosage given

The nursery DOES NOT administer any medication unless prior written consent is given for every medicine.

Injections, pessaries, suppositories

As the administration of injections, pessaries and suppositories represents intrusive nursing, we will not administer these without appropriate medical training for every member of staff caring for this child. This training is specific for every child and not generic. The nursery will do all it can to make any reasonable adjustments including working with parents and other professionals to arrange for appropriate health officials to train staff in administering the medication.

Staff medication

All nursery staff have a responsibility to work with children only where they are fit to do so. Staff must not work with children where they are infectious or too unwell to meet children's needs. This includes circumstances where any medication taken affects their ability to care for children, for example, where it makes a person drowsy. If any staff member believes that their condition, including any condition caused by taking medication, is affecting their ability they must inform their line manager and seek medical advice.

*The nursery manager will decide if a staff member is fit to work, including circumstances where other staff members notice changes in behaviour suggesting a person may be under the influence of medication. This decision will include any medical advice obtained by the individual or from an occupational health assessment.

Where staff may occasionally or regularly need medication, any such medication must be kept in the person's locker/separate locked container in the staff room or nursery room where staff may need easy access to the medication such as an



asthma inhaler. In all cases it must be stored out of reach of the children. It must not be kept in the first aid box and should be labelled with the name of the member of staff.

Storage

All medication for children must have the child's name clearly written on the original container and kept in a closed box, which is out of reach of all children.

Emergency medication, such as inhalers and EpiPens, will be within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need, but will remain out of children's reach.

Any antibiotics requiring refrigeration must be kept in a fridge inaccessible to children.

All medications must be in their original containers, labels must be legible and not tampered with or they will not be given. All prescription medications should have the pharmacist's details and notes attached to show the dosage needed and the date the prescription was issued. This will all be checked, along with expiry dates, before staff agree to administer medication.

Our policy reflects our statutory duty and guidance from both the Department of Education and Ofsted regarding administration of medicines in early years -

- A provider cannot decide for themselves that a child needs to have a pain or fever reliever
- Settings do not have to administer medicines
- Settings have the right to refuse a child if considered too unwell to attend
- Pain relief medicine can only be administered for a maximum of three consecutive days

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>September 2015 Amended 2019</i>		<i>Annually</i>