

Medicines Policy

We as a setting have decided not to administer your child non-prescribed medication, such as cough mixture, Calpol, alternative remedies etc, as they could hide other symptoms. As we are outdoors children should be in full health. In line with first aid recommendations the only circumstance in which Calpol will be administered will be if a child's temperature reaches 39 degrees or over while waiting for collection. This is to prevent febrile convulsions. Permission to use Calpol in this instance will be recorded on Ovivo.

Circumstances outside of the above parameters, where the administering of non-prescribed medicines such as Calpol is required for pain relief of a pre-determined condition for which the child is waiting upon an imminent doctors/dentist/hospital appointment, and with such pain relief, the child is otherwise well, with the Manager's permission, we can agree to this with signed consent from parents or guardian. Following administering of the non-prescribed medication, we will continue to take the child's temperature to ensure that the medicine is not masking other symptoms.

Similarly if a child require Calpol for teething we can administer 1 dose 4 hours after the child has arrived at the setting. This will be agreed with the manager or room lead prior to the child coming in and will require a medication form (to be reviewed in 2 weeks) and an administration form for each dose.

The child's temperature will be taken prior to the administration to ensure their temperature isn't 38 or over running the risk of the medication masking an underlying illness. As advised by NHS guidelines a teething child will only run a mild temperature of 37.7 37.8. Any child running a temperature of 38 or above is most likely unwell and will be sent home as per standard procedure.

All medications administered will be recorded on Ovivo.

It is vital that you inform us of any medication you may have given your child before they arrive into our care. We need to know what medicine they have had, the dose and time given.

If your child has acute allergies and carries/needs an EpiPen or your child takes regular medication, please discuss the matter with us. (see Allergies, allergic reactions and allergy medication policy).

If your child needs to take medication prescribed by a doctor, please discuss this with us. We will need you to sign an additional permission form before we can administer this medication to your child. If it is a new medication your child must remain home for the first 24 hours in case of any allergic reactions.

In some cases, a child may be asked not to attend for 2-3 days in case they react to the medication and to prevent the spread of an infection to others, we will follow the guidance set out by the HPA - Health Protection Agency where they detail the most common infectious diseases and the recommended periods for which children should be kept away from school or nursery.

All medicine given to us to administer must be in its original bottle/container and not decanted. It must have the manufacturers guidelines on it and if a prescription medication the details from the Doctor / Pharmacy / Dentist or Health Professional. If the medicine requires

refrigeration please discuss this with a member of staff as we do not have the means with which to keep the medicine refrigerated. We will record the course of medication along with the date and time each dose was administered to your child on Ovivio. When administering any medication the dose written on the bottle and the dose administered will be double checked by another practitioner and the names of the practitioner administering and the practitioner witnessing will be documented on Ovivio.

We adhere to the requirements of the EYFS when administering medicines - both prescribed and unprescribed. In October 2016, the Department for Education (DFE) clarified the rules of administering medicines as the EYFS itself was a little ambiguous and was causing some confusion. The DFE issued the following statement:

"This article seeks to clarify the current guidance on administering medicines in early years settings. Paragraph 3.45 of the EYFS states that medicines must not usually be administered unless they have been prescribed. This means that it must not be usual practice for an early year's provider to administer medicines without permission to do so and not that all medicines, both prescription and non-prescription have to have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. For example, a provider cannot decide for themselves that a particular child needs to have a pain or fever reliever.

We provide a lockable medicine cabinet located in both the Cabin and the Forest School (small office).