

Medication

EYFS: 3.19, 3.46, 3.47

At **Little Fingers Pre-school** we promote the good health of children attending pre-school and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection (see sickness and illness and infection control policies). 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.

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

Medication prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist

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

- Prescription medicine will only be given when prescribed by the above and for the person named on the bottle for the dosage stated
- Medicines must be in their original containers with their instructions printed in English
- 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 will check these details
- Those with parental responsibility must give prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication. However, we will accept written permission once for a whole course of medication or for the ongoing use of a particular 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** 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 pre-school 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 parent must be asked when the child has last been given the medication before coming to pre-school; and the staff member must record this information on the medication form. Similarly, when the child is picked up, the parent or guardian must be given 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 (these will not usually be administered)

- The pre-school will **not** administer any non-prescription medication, other than an anti-histamine (Piriton).
- On registration, parents will be asked if they would like to consent to their child being given a specific type of anti-histamine (Piriton), in particular circumstances such as a wasp or bee sting or an allergic reaction that neither the parent or setting were aware of. The consent will state the dose to be given, the circumstances in which this can be given, the specific brand name and a signed statement to say that this may be administered in an emergency if the pre-school CANNOT contact the parent. Although every attempt will be made to contact the parent.
- An emergency pre-school supply of anti-histamine (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 anti-histamine medication, the pre-school will make every attempt to contact the child's parents. Where parents cannot be contacted then the pre-school manager will take the decision as to whether the child is safe to have this medication, the circumstances surrounding the need for this medication and the medical history of the child on their registration form.
- The child will be closely monitored until the parents collect the child
- For any non-prescription cream for skin conditions e.g. Sudocrem, prior written permission must 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
- If any child is brought to the pre-school in a condition in which he/she has been given paracetamol (Calpol), up to 4 hours prior to their session starting, the manager will decide if the child is fit to be left at the pre-school.

- As with any kind of medication, staff will ensure that the parent is informed of any non-prescription medicines (Piriton) given to the child whilst at the pre-school, together with the times and dosage given
- The pre-school DOES NOT administer any medication unless it is prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist

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 pre-school 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 pre-school 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 feel unwell and cannot 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 to care for children they must inform the manager and seek medical advice. The pre-school manager/ registered person 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 a separate locked container in the kitchen where staff may need easy access to the medication such as an asthma inhaler. In all cases it must be stored securely out of reach of the children, at all times. 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.

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the pre-school | Date for review |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| May 2022 | | May 2023 |