Medication

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| EYFS: 3.19, 3.44, 3.45, 3.46 |

At **Horizon Childcare** we promote the good health of children attending nursery and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of illness and disease. We will always consider the wellbeing of the child and suggest that, in some cases, if the child needs medication they may not feel well enough to cope with a nursery day. We reserve the right to refuse a child if we believe they are too unwell to cope with a nursery day or pose a risk to the other children of spreading infection/ disease. If a child requires medicine we will obtain written information about the child’s needs for this, and will ensure this information is kept up to date. Where the administration of a child’s medicine needs specialist training, the medicine will not be given until staff have received relevant training and feel capable and confident in doing so.

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 will only be given if prescribed by a doctor)*

* Prescription medicine will only be given to the person named on the bottle for the dosage stated
* Medicines must be in their original containers with any leaflets giving information about side effects
* The parent/ carer 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
* The parent/ carer must give prior written permission for the administration of each and every medication.
* 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 note from a doctor or dentist
* The parent/carer must be asked when the child has last been given the medication before coming to nursery; 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 senior 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 administrated)*

* The nursery will not administer any non-prescription medication containing aspirin
* The nursery will only administer non-prescription medication in some cases dependant on the medication and/or the condition of the child. In some instances this may be appropriate e.g. calpol for teething.
* Staff are not legally obliged to give a child medicine and will only give medicine if they feel it is necessary.
* 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 during their time at nursery, such medication will be treated as prescription medication with the onus being on the parent to provide the medicine and state why the child needs it. If the child needs liquid paracetamol or similar medication we may question whether or not the child is well enough to cope with the day.
* On registration, parents will be asked if the nursery has permission to give/ arrange emergency treatment including administering paracetamol based medication to prevent febrile convulsions in the event of a high temperature. If the parent gives permission this may only be administered in an emergency if the nursery CANNOT get hold the parent. We will always endeavour to get written or at least verbal permission from the parent even in an emergency. The child’s best interests will be at the heart of any decision which needs to be made. If in doubt the nursery staff will ring 999 immediately.
* An emergency nursery supply of fever relief (e.g Calpol) 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
* 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 flannel. The child will be closely monitored until the parents collect the child
* Parents/ carers do not need to complete medicine forms for anything which cannot be overdosed e.g. sudocrem. Parents/ carers do need to complete forms for any medicines or creams where there is a total amount that can be given each day.
* If any child is brought to the nursery in a condition in which he/she may require medication sometime during the day, the manager will decide if the child is fit to be left at the nursery. If the child is staying, the parent must be asked if any kind of medication has already been given, at what time and in what dosage and this must be stated on the medication form
* 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
* If there is any doubt around the usage of any medication it will not be administered at nursery.

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 may 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 take into account 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 in the kitchen 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 box in the manager’s office or in the fridge in the kitchen; out of the reach of children in both locations.

Emergency medication, such as inhalers and EpiPens, will be stored in the Manager’s office within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need.

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.

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