

Administering Medication Policy

I will ensure that I meet the individual needs of each child when administering medicines.

Can my childcare provider give medication to my child?

- Provided that specific permission has been given by parents/carers, childcare providers are allowed to administer most common medications, if necessary.
- All medication must be in date, in its original container and have its full instruction leaflet.
- Prior written permission must be given for every item that is to be administered.
- All permissions to administer medication will be reviewed regularly. Medication will only be given on a long-term basis if there is a medical need, recommended by a medical professional. Medication will not be used past its expiry date.

Prescription Medicines

- Prescription medications can only be given if they are prescribed specifically for that child.
- Prescription medicines must have the child's details printed on the pharmacy label.

Non-Prescription Medicines

- Non-prescription medicines, such as pain relief, will only be administered when there is a health reason to do so.
- If the medication is for general ongoing use (e.g. paracetamol, antihistamines), a parent/carer must complete an 'As and When Medication Form' first. The parent/carer will be contacted on each occasion and permission given verbally or via text/email (except in an emergency).
- Please note that paracetamol should only be used as pain relief or with a medical practitioner's recommendation, such as following vaccinations. It should not be used simply to reduce a temperature, as this can mask more serious conditions.

- For emergency medications, e.g. an asthma inhaler or antihistamines, please provide medication for me to keep at my house. If a child has long-term medical needs, then I will ensure that I have sufficient information and will work in partnership with parents/ carers to give any prescribed medication.

Can my childcare provider administer antibiotics?

- If a child is on antibiotics, they can attend if well enough. Antibiotics must be taken at least twice at home before attending, in case of new adverse reactions.

What if my child has had a dose at home before attending?

- I will never administer medicines containing aspirin to a child under the age of 16 unless they have been prescribed by a doctor.
- I will not administer any medications that require specialist training, unless fully trained.
- I will not give medication to a child with incorrect details on the pharmacy label, or if the medication is out of date.
- I will not administer non-prescription medicines that are not suitable for a child due to their age.

What medications can childcare practitioners not administer?

- It is vital that you inform me of any medication you may have given to your child in the 48 hours before they arrive at the setting.
- Depending on the medication and reason, you may be asked to keep your child at home for a day or two. Particularly for new medications and antibiotics, you may need to monitor your child for adverse reactions.

How will medicines be stored?

- I will store all medicines strictly in accordance with the product instructions, in their original container and out of reach of children.
- Medicines supplied in non-original containers or without instructions cannot be administered.
- If a medication requires special storage, parents/carers should inform me of this.