



Administration of Medication Policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of:

East Craigs Playgroup

Academic Year 2022/23

Signed Caroline Wilkinson .

Designation ...Manager

1. Statement of Purpose

1.1

Children attend early learning and childcare (ELC) settings with a wide range of medicinal requirements related to their individual needs. These needs can be short term (finishing a course of medication) and or long term (medication to keep them well). Staff will ensure procedures are followed in order to meet these needs.

1.2

Medication will only be administered in order to maintain the child's health and wellbeing and/or when recovering from an illness. Most children with medical needs can participate in everyday day experiences within the setting. Throughout this guidance the term 'parents' is used to include all main caregivers.

2. Procedures for Administration of Medication

2.1

We will only administer prescribed medication when it is essential to do so. Parents will provide written consent for their child to be given medication for a minor ailment or allergy. If children attend this setting on a part-time basis, parents should be encouraged to administer the medication at home. If parents are present during the session, they will also administer the medication for their own child.

2.2

In all circumstances, parents will administer the first dose of a course of medication and will advise the setting of any adverse reactions to the medication. Staff will only administer medication that:

- Has been prescribed by a doctor or pharmacist.
- Is in the original container or box along with the information leaflet, and
- is clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage instructions.
- Medication will be taken away and returned by the parent/carer each day

It is also important to be aware of the following:

- Children's medicines will be stored in their original containers in the child's bag kept in the changing room. They will be clearly labelled and inaccessible to children.
- Medicine spoons and oral syringes must be supplied by the parent if required.

Medications may only be used for the child whose name appears on the medicine. This includes emergency adrenaline injections (e.g. an EpiPen). Parents must give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The staff receiving the medication must ask the parent to sign a consent form stating the following information:

- The full name of the child and date of birth
- The name of the medication and strength
- If the child has had medication prior to arrival at the setting, the time and dosage amount should be noted.
- Dosage to be given in the setting.

- Signature, printed name of the parent and date.
- Verification by the parent at the end of the session.

NB: No medication may be given without these details being provided.

2.3

If the child spits out or vomits the medicine, no further dose should be given, and the parent/carer should be informed. If a child is given too much medication, or medication is given to the wrong child, staff will inform the parent/carer immediately. Further advice / instructions should be sought from a doctor. If a child on medication must be taken to hospital, the child's medication should be taken in a sealed plastic bag, which contains a copy of the signed parental/carer consent form, and which is clearly labelled with the child's name and name of the medication. This procedure complies with the safeguarding of information sharing, including General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) procedures.

3. Reducing Risk

3.1 Systems in place which are checked at every point to reduce risk in administering medication:

- The consent forms are checked and completed with the parent/carer and colleague before medication is administered.
- The staff member administering the medication should have another colleague check dispensed and expiry dates.
- Ensure that the medication is for a current condition (for example, something prescribed for a condition six months ago might not be appropriate now).
- If a medicine, not dispensed recently, is still appropriate for use (for example liquid antibiotics usually only have a seven to ten-day shelf life and eye drops should be discarded 28 days after opening and returned to the parent/carer).
- Review consent every 3 months and at the start of term.
- Any special instruction in relation to storage or administration of medication will be complete and adhered to.

4. Seeking Medical Advice (NHS 24)

4.1

The information in the Care Inspectorate's [Management of medication in daycare of children and childminding services](#) is in line with existing government advice and best practice guidance. It offers a framework for the routine management of medication in such services.

4.2

If a child becomes ill during a session, when the parent/carer is not present, then the playgroup manager will call the parent or emergency contact. If no contact can be made, the playgroup may call NHS 24 if deemed necessary and follow advice given.

4.3

The Care Inspectorate has been advised that, on rare occasions, NHS 24 has advised individual services to administer an over the counter (OTC) medicine such as paracetamol immediately. The Care Inspectorate has clarified the temporal aspect

of this advice with NHS 24, who have advised “administration as soon as is reasonably possible” is the correct interpretation.

4.4

Services will not (and should not) contact NHS 24 on a routine basis for advice on every presentation of an ailment. Where a service has contacted NHS 24 and advice to administer a medicine is given, the Care Inspectorate will and should view this as a non-routine duty of care situation. As such a care service’s response in this situation should not be viewed against the framework for the routine management of medication in such services (as found in the best practice guidance). The response of each care service to the non-routine situations will be dependent on the context.

5. Storage of Medicines

5.1

All medication is to be kept with the parent/carer out with playgroup stored safely by the parent/carer

5.2

Medication which needs to be taken during playgroup time will be stored in the child’s playgroup bag out of the reach of all children.

6. Care Plan

6.1

A care plan for the child is drawn up with the parent/carer outlining the key person’s role, and what information must be shared with other staff who care for the child. The child’s care plan should include the measures to be taken in an emergency. The child’s care plan is reviewed every six months or more if necessary. This includes reviewing the medication, e.g. changes to the medication or the dosage, any side effects noted etc. Parents receive a copy of the child’s care plan and each contributor, including the parent, signs the consent for compliance with Data Protection, including GDPR and confidentiality of information.

6.2

When a parent/carer is present, they will be responsible for the storage of their child’s medication.

7. Managing medicines on trips and outings

Medication for a child is taken in a sealed plastic bag clearly labelled with the child’s name and name of the medication. There should be a copy of the signed parental consent form in the box. On no account may medicine be decanted into other containers or packets or envelopes. The original pharmacy labelled medication should be within the box.

Relevant medical details for all children participating in an outing will be taken by accompanying staff. Original copies will be left in the setting. Medication will be

administered to the child before leaving home or the setting where possible. For children who may require medication during the trip, this should be administered by appropriate staff.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

8.1 Parental Role

It is the responsibility of the parent/carers to ensure that the child is well enough to attend the setting. The parent/carer will inform staff of any medication that is currently being administered. Parent/carers will also inform the setting if the child has received the medication at home, when it was administered and how much was given to ensure the correct dosage instructions are being followed.

Parent/carers will be required to complete (and regularly update) a Parental/carer Medication Permission Form (Appendix 1) giving permission for staff to administer the medication. A new form will be completed for each new medication required by the child. Parent/carers will be asked to sign and acknowledge the medication given to their child each day. Parent/carers will inform the setting if the child stops taking medication.

8.2 Staff Role

Staff will ensure that they have the required written permission from the parent/carer for the setting to administer the medication (Appendix 1). Each time a staff member administers medication to a child, an Administration of Medication form (Appendix 2) will be completed and signed. A second member of staff will witness the administering of the medication and then countersign the form once the medication has been given. Staff will need to complete the Administration of Medication Form each time medication is given, noting the date, time and dosage.

8.3

Settings must risk-assess the number of trained personnel who must be present to deal with medicinal needs. It is up to staff within the setting to ensure that all spoons, syringes, spacers for inhalers etc. are labelled, stored with the child's medication, and cleaned appropriately after use. Infection control issues in terms of applying creams, eye drops etc. need to be considered.

8.4

Staff will ensure children's individual care and support is consistent and stable by working together with families in a way that is well coordinated for consistency and continuity of their child's care needs. A named member of staff (usually a manager) will ensure that all other staff and volunteers know who is responsible for the medication of children with particular needs. Staff will ensure the parent /carers signs the form daily to acknowledge the medication given to the child. Parental/carer consent should be time limited depending on the condition.

9. Long Term Medication

Children who require medication for long term conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, or asthma need to have all relevant information recorded in their personal records. This will be done by the key worker in consultation with the parent.

10. Staff Training

10.1

Where a condition requires specialist knowledge, staff will be required to undergo training from a qualified health professional in order to be able to administer the necessary medication.

10.2

Staff should also be trained to recognise the symptoms if medication has to be given on a 'when required basis'. This information will be recorded in the Administration of Medication Form or care support plan as appropriate. Training should be reviewed and refreshed on a three yearly cycle to ensure staff have the most up to date knowledge.

11. Insurance

11.1

Early Years Scotland's (EYS) insurance provider is Royal Sun Alliance. RSA provides cover under the Public Liability section of the Group Insurance Policy where an ELC setting is found to be legally liable. The Public Liability section of the insurance cover has been extended to include administration of medication, provided that the ELC setting service has a clear policy and guidelines on the use, storage and administration of medication and staff are suitably trained to carry these out.

11.2

The service must ensure that written consent is given by parents and carers for the use or administration of medication provided by them. A clear policy on how to deal with emergencies and staff are well trained in emergency procedures.

11.3

RSA requires settings that are administering lifesaving or emergency invasive medication, such as breathing apparatus, colostomy bags, feeding tubes, EpiPen or adrenaline injections for anaphylactic shock (caused by a reaction to nut products or other allergic reactions), or rectal diazepam for epilepsy, to request an extension to their insurance cover. This will also involve gaining parental/guardian's consent and ensuring that training is provided for staff by a health professional prior to the child being left at the setting without their parent or guardian. Arranging an extension to your insurance cover and accessing consent forms can be done by contacting Early Years Scotland directly, either by emailing info@earlyyearsscotland.org or by phoning 0141 221 4148.

11.4

RSA treat inhalers for asthma and nebuliser as oral medication. The setting's own consent form should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and should be retained in the child's file. East Craigs Playgroup (ELC) will ensure that staff training by a health professional such as the child's GP/District Nurse/Child Nurse Specialist /Community Paediatric Nurse or approved first aid training agency is undertaken in

the use of inhalers, prior to the child being left at the setting without their parent/guardian.

Monitoring of this Policy

It will be the responsibility of the manager to ensure that new or temporary staff are familiar with this policy and to monitor that it is being implemented by all staff and parents/carers. This will be achieved through observation of staff practice and regular communication with parent/carers. All relevant medication forms will be checked and updated on a regular basis. Parent/carers will be made aware of this policy through the enrolment procedures and the parents' handbook. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is relevant and up to date.

Disseminating and Implementing this Policy

East Craigs Playgroup (ELC) staff will be required to read this policy on their induction and to comply with the contents therein. The policy will be kept in the policy folder and will be available for staff to refer to at all times.

The implementation of the policy will be monitored on a day to day basis. Any adverse incidents will be recorded and reviewed to ensure the policy is fit for purpose.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Parental Permission Form

Appendix 2 – Administration of Medication: Daily Dosage of an Individual Child

Appendix 3 – Monthly Review of Administration of Medicines

Appendix 4 – Sun Awareness and Protection

See also:

Health and Safety Policy

Infection Control Policy

GDPR – Privacy Policy

Links to national policy

Health and Social care standards: My Support, My Life

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-standards-support-life/>

Health and Social Care Standards, 1.15, 1.19, 1.23, 1.24, 2.23, 3.4, 3.14, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 4.11, 4.15

Find out more:

Community pharmacists and NHS 24

www.nhs24.com

Fever Management

<http://www.nhsinform.co.uk/health-library/articles/f/feverchildren/introduction>

Parental Permission Form

Appendix 1

Administration of Medicines

Dear Parent/Carer

In order to enable staff to carry out safe practices in relation to the administration of medication please ensure the setting has the following information, all of which requires to be recorded on this form.

- Medication required to be taken by your child whilst in the setting.
- Completed parental permission form.
- If your child requires ongoing medication to be kept within the setting, a separate supply of medicine, appropriately labelled, should be obtained from the pharmacist.
- Medicine should be clearly labelled with your child's name, date of birth, name of medicine, dosage, time and frequency and expiry date.
- If your child suffers from asthma, it is essential that the setting has been informed of any restrictions which need to be applied to his/her activities.
- If your child suffers from epileptic attacks, diabetes or anaphylactic shock it is imperative the setting is aware of the appropriate emergency treatment that should be given.
- If the child spits out the medicine, no further dosage will be given, and you will be informed of this.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Yours sincerely

Personal Details

Setting	
Name of Child	
Date of Birth	

General Medical Practitioner Information

Name of Doctor	
Address	
Phone Number	

A parental permission form must be completed for each type of medication being taken by the child.

Parental Permission

I confirm that my childrequires the following medicine(s)
.....and that I give permission that it /they can be administered by a non-medically qualified staff member of XXXX (ELC).

I will also inform the setting immediately of any changes in medication and will provide an appropriately labelled supply.

Signature Date

Print Name

Home Address

..... Telephone No.

Emergency Contact Person (if different from above)

Relationship

Telephone No.

Child's Name

Details of Medication

TYPE OF ILLNESS	
NAME OF MEDICATION (AS STATED ON LABEL)	
TYPE OF MEDICATION E.G. TABLETS, SYRUP	
DOSAGE INSTRUCTIONS E.G. HOW OFTEN, WHEN AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION	

Parent's signature confirming medication and dosage

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

Administration of Medication: Daily Dosage of an Individual Child

(First dose must always be given by the parent)

Appendix 2

Child's Name

Date	Time	Type and dosage of medicine	Time last given by parent/carer	Dosage accepted? Any further action	Signature of member of staff administering drug Please also print name	Signature of witnessing member of staff Please also print name	Parent's signature Please also print name

Monthly Review of Administration of Medicines

Appendix 3

Child`s Name	Date medication began	Time of last dose	Reason for medicine being administered	Review of medication Sign and Date: Please also print name	Medication returned to parent or n/a Date

Sun Awareness and Protection

Appendix 4

Statement of Purpose

Early learning and childcare settings need to be aware of the importance of protecting children from the sun. Both children and staff should apply sunscreen, be encouraged to wear protective clothing, drink water and stay in the shade as far as possible. Staff should be good role models for the children in relation to sun safety.

Sunscreen

Sunscreen should be applied at least 30 minutes before the children go outside. Parent/carers should be encouraged to apply the cream at home. If the cream must be applied by the setting, a consent form should be signed by the parent. Parents should provide sunscreen for the setting to use.

The most important information on sunscreen is the SPF (which shows how strong the protection against UVB is), and star rating (which ranks the level of UVA protection). Look for **at least SPF 15** but higher factors are preferable and **4 or more stars**.

You won't get the level of the protection on the bottle **unless you put enough sunscreen on**. An adult needs about two teaspoonfuls to cover their face and upper arms. It's also important to reapply sunscreen regularly – it rubs, sweats and washes off easily, plus you may well have missed bits.

Appropriate Clothing

Children should be encouraged to wear clothing that provides good protection from the sun, for example, sun hats, long sleeved tops or sunglasses. Information in relation to sun awareness and protection will be made available to parents through newsletters and/or the noticeboard.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities will be held in the shade and in screened areas as far as possible. The setting will try to avoid being outdoors in the middle of the day and children will be encouraged to drink water regularly. Children who do not wish to go outside should be allowed to stay indoors. Children wishing to return indoors to the playroom from outside should be able to do so.