

Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious Policy (Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy statement

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. Our policy for the exclusion of ill or infectious children is discussed with parents. This includes procedures for contacting parents or other authorised adults if a child becomes ill whilst at Preschool.

Covid-19 amendment - During the COVID-19 outbreak, any child showing symptoms, such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; loss or taste or smell may have Covid-19. We will follow the most current advice and guidance given by the Government / NHS in respect of children attending the pre-school and whether self-isolation is required.

Communicable Diseases – infection or illnesses that can be passed to others.

Athletes Foot	Exclusion from barefoot activities until free from infection
Chicken Pox	7 – 10 days after the last spots have appeared. Scabs need not have separated.
Dysentery	Until bacteriological examination is clear
Food Poisoning	Until declared fit by the District Medical Officer
German Measles	7 – 10 days after the rash has appeared
Head lice	Until treatment has been carried out successfully
Impetigo	Until spots are healed unless they can be covered
Infective Jaundice	Until clinical recovery and at least 7 days after onset
Measles	Until clinical recovery and at least 4 days following the onset of rash
Meningitis	Until bacteriological examination is clear
Mumps	Until swelling has gone
Ringworm (scalp or body)	Until adequate treatment is instituted provided lesions are covered
Scabies/Threadworm	Until adequate treatment is instituted
Scarlet Fever/ Whooping Cough	Until clinical recovery
Verruca	Exclusion from barefoot activities until free from infection

Procedures for children with allergies

- When parents start their children at the Preschool they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the registration form.
- If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment form is completed to detail the following:
 - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
 - The nature of the allergic reactions e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc.
 - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. EpiPen).
 - Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
 - Review.
- This form is kept in the child’s personal file and a copy is displayed where staff can see it.
- Parents train staff in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the Preschool.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

- The insurance will automatically include children with any disability or allergy but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend our insurance.

At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and follow procedures based on advice given in *Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Preschools* (DfES 2005)

Oral Medication

- Asthma inhalers are now regarded as "oral medication" by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider.
- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
- The Preschool must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
- The group must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file in the Preschool.

Life saving medication & invasive treatments.

Adrenaline injections (EpiPens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

☞ The Preschool must have:

- a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered;
- written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication; and
- proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's' nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.

☞ Copies of all three letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Early Years Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal. Confirmation will then be issued in writing confirming that the insurance has been extended.

Key person for special needs children - children requiring help with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.

☞ Prior written consent from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.

☞ Key person to have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.

☞ Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Early Years Alliance Insurance Department (020 7697 2585) for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

☞ If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – the Preschool Leader calls the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on their behalf.

☞ If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.

☞ Temperature is taken using a 'fever scan' kept near to the first aid box.

☞ In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.

☞ Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to Preschool; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.

☞ Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the Preschool.

☞ After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours.

☞ Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak

☞ The Preschool has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374 and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

☞ If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, the GP will report this to the Public Health England. **0113 386 0300**

☞ When the Preschool becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the Preschool Leader informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by Public Health England.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

☞ HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis, (A, B and C) are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults.

☞ Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit.

☞ Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect.

☞ Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.

☞ Tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

☞ Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition, although in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.

☞ On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Further guidance Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings (DfES 2005) <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/1448-2005PDF-EN-02.pdf>

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Pickering Pre-School Playgroup held on 31st August 2023.

Date to be reviewed – Before end of August 2024.

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory – Richard Allenby (Chairperson).