

Once Upon A Time Nursery
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Medication Policy

Wales: NMS
11.1 - 11.8, 2.2,

At **Once Upon a Time Nursery** we promote the good health of children attending nursery and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection (see sickness and illness policy). If a child requires ongoing medication 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 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 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 app and another member of staff will check these details
- Written consent must be given prior to staff administering prescribed 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 letter from a doctor or dentist
- The parent must be asked when the child has last been given the medication before coming to nursery. Similarly the parent or guardian must be given precise details of the times and dosage given throughout the day via our app. The parent must acknowledge this through the app.
- 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 app.
- 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 National Minimum Standards state:

There will be occasions when children become acutely unwell during their time at your setting. The health and wellbeing of children must always be protected and is a regulatory requirement. Children who are already unwell, have a high temperature or are infectious should not be received into the setting. This is to protect the health of other children and staff (including those that are vulnerable). Children with mild respiratory symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough who are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.

In situations where a child becomes unwell whilst at the registered setting, it is most appropriate for the child to be collected by a parent or carer.

However, in circumstances where **parents have given prior written consent** and they are not able to collect their child immediately the following options would be appropriate:

Option 1: the child's parent or carer has been contacted but there is going to be a delay in collection:

- the child's parent or carer gives verbal consent for the dose of paracetamol to be given.
- a period of at least 4 hours has passed since the last dose of paracetamol was given to the child; and
- the parent or carer has undertaken to collect the child from the registered setting as soon as is practicable.

Or

Option 2: the registered setting has attempted to contact the child's parent or carer, but they cannot be contacted:

- the registered setting must contact NHS 111 and a healthcare professional (at NHS 111) has advised that it would be appropriate for a dose of Liquid Paracetamol to be given.
- the registered setting should subsequently contact the child's parent or carer to arrange for the child to be collected from the registered setting at the earliest opportunity/as soon as is practicable.

In addition to the above, registered settings must continue to adhere to Standard 10.2 which states:

"No child is received if he/she appears to be ill. If children become unwell during their time in the childcare or play setting, care is taken to prevent possible infection of other children and parents are notified as soon as possible."

- The nursery will not administer any non-prescription medication containing aspirin
- 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
- 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
- For any non-prescription cream for skin conditions e.g. Sudocrem, prior permission via the app 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 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
- The nursery DOES NOT administer any medication unless prior consent is given for each and every medicine.

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 management team 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 staff room or nursery room 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 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.