

Sawston Childcare Limited  
**Administering medicines**



### **Policy statement**

While it is not our policy at Sawston Nursery to care for sick children, who should be at home until they are well enough to return to the setting, we will agree to administer prescribed medication as part of maintaining their health and well-being or when they are recovering from an illness. We ensure that where prescribed medicines are necessary to maintain health of the child, they are given correctly and in accordance with legal requirements.

In many cases, it is possible for children's GPs to prescribe medicine that can be taken at home in the morning and evening. As far as possible, administering medicines will only be done where it would be detrimental to the child's health if not given in the setting. If a child has not had a medication since starting Nursery, that is not recorded on our log, especially a baby/child under two, it is advised that the parent keeps the child at home for the first **48 hours** to ensure there are no adverse effects as well as to give time for the medication to take effect. Prescribed medicines will only be administered if prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

Our level 3 qualified staff are responsible for the correct administration of medication to children that is prescribed by a doctor. This includes ensuring that parent consent forms have been completed, that medicines are stored correctly and that records are kept according to procedures.

### **Procedures**

- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- Sawston Nursery only administer medication when it has been prescribed for a child by a doctor (or other medically qualified person). It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition.
- Non-prescription medication, such as pain or fever relief (e.g. Calpol) and teething gel, may be administered, but only with prior written consent of the parent and only when there is a health reason to do so, such as a high temperature. Children under the age of 16 years are never given medicines containing aspirin unless prescribed specifically for that child by a doctor. The administering of un-prescribed medication is recorded in the same way as any other medication. Please note we may administer children's paracetamol (un-prescribed) for children under the age of one year with the verbal consent and e-mails from the parents in the case of a high temperature. This is to prevent febrile convulsions and where a parent or named person is on their way to collect the child. **We consider a high temperature to be 38°C or above.**

- Please be aware that if your child requires Calpol before coming to nursery parents/carers must ensure that the child is well enough to attend the nursery and not be needing further Calpol during the day. Children must be well in themselves to attend the nursery as our ratios do not allow us to give 1-1 to a child throughout the day.
- Children's prescribed medicines are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children. On receiving the medication, the member of staff who accepts the medicine ensures that it is in date and prescribed specifically for the current condition.
- Parents must give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The staff member receiving the medication will ask the parent to sign a consent form stating the following information.
- No medication may be given without these details being provided:
  - the full name of child and date of birth
  - the name of medication and strength
  - who prescribed it
  - the dosage and times to be given in the setting
  - the method of administration
  - how the medication should be stored and its expiry date
  - any possible side effects that may be expected
  - the signature of the parent, their printed name and the date
- The administration of medicine is recorded accurately on a child's personal medical sheet and each time it is given to the child is signed by the person administering the medication and a witness. Parents are shown the record at the end of the day and asked to sign the record book to acknowledge the administration of the medicine. The medication sheet records the:
  - name of the child
  - name and strength of the medication
  - name of the doctor that prescribed it
  - date and time of the dose
  - dose given and method
  - signature of the person administering the medication and a witness who verifies that the medication has been given correctly
  - parent's signature (at the end of the day).
- If the administration of prescribed medication requires medical knowledge, Sawston Nursery staff will obtain individual training by a health professional.
- No child may self-administer. Where children are capable of understanding when they need medication, for example with asthma, they should be encouraged to tell their key person what they need. However, this does not replace staff vigilance in knowing and responding when a child requires medication.

- Sawston Nursery will monitor the medication record sheet to look at the frequency of medication given in the setting. For example, a high incidence of antibiotics being prescribed for a number of children at similar times may indicate a need for better infection control.

#### *Storage of medicines*

- All medication is stored safely in a locked cupboard or refrigerated as required. Where the cupboard or refrigerator is not used solely for storing medicines, they are kept in a marked plastic box.
- The child's key person is responsible for ensuring medicine is handed back at the end of the day to the parent.
- For some conditions, medication may be kept in the setting to be administered on a regular or as-and-when-required basis. Key persons check that any medication held in the setting, is in date and return any out-of-date medication back to the parent.

*Our medication is stored in the staff room area and kept in the fridge or in the classroom on a high shelf, out of reach to the children. The medication is stored in a plastic box with a prescribed sticker on the front. Nursery Calpol is stored in the administrator's cupboard on the top shelf in a plastic box.*

#### *Children who have long term medical conditions and who may require ongoing medication*

- Sawston Nursery carry out a risk assessment for each child with a long-term medical condition that requires on-going medication. This is the responsibility of our manager alongside the key person. Other medical or social care personnel may need to be involved in the risk assessment.
- Parents will also contribute to a risk assessment. They should be shown around the setting, understand the routines and activities and point out anything which they think may be a risk factor for their child.
- For some medical conditions, staff will need to have training in a basic understanding of the condition, as well as how the medication is to be administered correctly. The training needs for staff form part of the risk assessment.
- The risk assessment includes vigorous activities and any other activity that may give cause for concern regarding an individual child's health needs.
- The risk assessment includes arrangements for taking medicines on outings and advice is sought from the child's GP if necessary where there are concerns.
- An individual health care plan for the child is drawn up with the parent; outlining the keyperson role and what information must be shared with other adults who care for the child.
- The individual health care plan should include the measures to be taken in an emergency.
- Sawston Nursery will review the individual health care plan every three months, or more frequently 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 individual health plan and each contributor, including the parent, signs it.

- A protocol is written for children to ensure all staff members are aware of the child's medical condition and needs. A copy is kept in the classroom. All protocols have a front cover, so information is covered and available on a need to know basis. If a protocol for a child is no longer required, this is discussed between the room leader and parent and necessary steps are taken accordingly. Management are informed of any changes.

#### *Managing medicines on trips and outings*

- If children are going on outings, the key person will accompany the children with a risk assessment, or another member of staff who is fully informed about the child's needs and/or medication.
- Medication for a child is taken in a sealed plastic box clearly labelled with the child's name, the original pharmacist's label and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form and a card to record when it has been given, including all the details that need to be recorded in the medication record as stated above. For medication dispensed by a hospital pharmacy, where the child's details are not on the dispensing label, Sawston Nursery will record the circumstances of the event and hospital instructions as relayed by the parents.
- On returning to the setting the card is stapled to the medicine record book and the parent signs it.
- If a child on medication has to be taken to hospital, the child's medication is taken in a sealed plastic box clearly labelled with the child's name and the name of the medication. Inside the box is a copy of the consent form signed by the parent.
- This procedure should be read alongside the outing's procedure.

#### **Legal framework**

- The Human Medicines Regulations (2012)

This Policy was adopted by	Sawston Nursery
On	May 2018
Updated on	September 2020
Signed on behalf of the setting	