

Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies

(Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy statement

We provide care for healthy children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance.

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 – staff call the parents and asks them to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf except when a child only has a temperature, when staff will give calpol (if we have permission) before phoning parents.
- The child's temperature is taken using a digital thermometer, kept in the first aid box.
- In extreme cases of emergency, the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to Chudleigh Pre-school. Chudleigh Pre-School can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- After diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for 48 hours.
- Chudleigh Pre-School has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times.
- Conjunctivitis and impetigo are excludable illnesses at Chudleigh Preschool.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When Chudleigh Pre-School becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager informs Ofsted and acts on any advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

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.
- Protective gloves are used for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any 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.
- We reserve the right to send home any child with consistent head lice and to place an exclusion period on their return to preschool until all head lice are removed and the child's hair is treated appropriately.

Procedures for children with allergies

- When parents start their children at Chudleigh Pre-School they are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
- If a child has an allergy, an allergy plan 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.
- This form is kept in the child's personal file.
- Staff are trained to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within Chudleigh Pre-School.

- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in.

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 your insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Oral medication

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to your insurance provider.

- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
- Chudleigh Pre-School 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.
- Chudleigh Pre-School must have the parents or guardian's prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to your insurance provider.

Life-saving medication and invasive treatments

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

- Chudleigh Pre-School 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.

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

- Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
- Staff must have the relevant medical training/experience, which may include those who have received appropriate instructions from parents or guardians, or who have qualifications.