

**14. Medicine and illness policy**

In the event that any child is prescribed a medicine by their doctor it is considered that, in the best interests of the child and others who attend Play Station Nursery the child receiving medicine should not attend nursery for 24 hours.

After this time if it is deemed appropriate for the child to attend nursery. It will be necessary for parents/carers to complete a medical consent form; the form will be completed by a member of staff who will have administered the medicine, witnessed by another member of staff. All such records will be retained. Medicines will be stored in a container (inaccessible by children) in the first aid cupboard of the main kitchen, or in the fridge according to the instructions from the pharmacist.

Long term medical needs will require full and appropriate training, and if necessary specific only to that child.

If a child is prescribed suppository medication after the initial 24 hours this may be administered by the nursery on the conditions that; the child is compliant; a witness MUST be present, and gloves MUST be worn.

Carers/parents must ensure that staff are aware of the exact dosage and times of administration and have noted this information properly, the last dose given by the parent/carer must also be recorded. Administration of medicine will be witnessed by a staff member and signed off in the medicine folder at the time it is given. If it is given late, the time of administration will be recorded, and parents informed. If by any reason it was not given, this would be reported to parents.

Parents must make staff aware that their child has medicine and sign a medical consent form upon delivering their child, this cannot be back dated and filled in at the end of the day. Medicine cannot be left in bags for staff to find.

Contact details for all parents are kept on Nursery premises, so that we can quickly and easily make contact, when necessary, additional to this we have a nursery mobile phone with all contact number on that is taken out on trip, so that should your child fall ill while we are out we can contact you quickly. We will update these yearly. If contact details change in between times, please make sure the staff are informed and a new contact details form completed. It is imperative that parents are proactive in keeping these details up to date and making sure that there is always someone available to collect a sick child within a reasonable timescale.

Non-prescribed medicines (such as Calpol) are not to be administered by Play Station Nursery staff. Whilst we understand the occasional need for parents to administer non-prescribed medicines to the child, we request that for safety purposes such medicines are not added to a child’s personal drink by their parent/carer. Parents/carers will be asked to sign the medicine form for medicines administered at home, even if we are not required to repeat the dose; this includes Calpol and other pain relief medication.

We appreciate that for children under 2 teething can cause high temperatures and some discomfort, we ask parents to provide teething granules or gels that the staff can administer when the child needs relief. However, this is not always enough to alleviate the discomfort and a child will need some additional pain relief. At this point, parents will be contacted, and arrangements made for additional pain relief to be administered (if it is indeed appropriate that the child remains at nursery).

We realise that teething may occasionally cause diahorrea, however Nursery staff cannot allow a child with the condition to remain in Nursery and will contact a parent to collect their child if they exceed 2 diahorreanappies. It is the Managers/Owner that will decide if the child should remain absent from nursery for 48 hours due to suspected infection/illness.

If your child is unwell or is in need of medication we ask you to assess whether they are well enough to attend Nursery. Children who are ill often require one to one care which no nursery can provide. Parents are asked to remember that Nursery is NOT the place for a sick child, they require rest to recover and potentially their recovery could be hampered if they do not receive the appropriate care.

It is not the policy of the Nursery to exclude children unnecessarily, or to have in place policies, which are so rigid that they are unable to be followed in practice.

Any information on infectious or contagious illnesses that are active in the nursery will be displayed on the front door. This will allow people the opportunity to take steps to limit their own exposure you can find more information on the guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-control-in-schools-poster](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-control-in-schools-poster). This poster is also displayed in the front porch on the notice board. Occasionally there can be ‘outbreaks’ of certain illnesses that may affect children in the setting (such as, Croup, scarlet fever, slapped cheek etc). Whilst there may not be an official exclusion period for these conditions, the manager will use their discretion to judge the appropriate exclusion period following an ‘outbreak’ to minimise further spread of infection.

Nursery staff **are** permitted to apply non-prescribed creams such as Sudocreme, or topical creams for skin conditions. This is however, at the discretion of the nursery and must be discussed with the nursery before requiring the application.

In the interests of each child’s well-being and comfort it is requested that when children receive an MMR, their preschool booster or routine injections/vaccinations that they do not attend nursery for at least 24 hours from the time of injection/vaccination. Children may attend after receiving their Flu vaccine.

In children under 5, a fever is considered to be a temperature of 38.0 (100.4F), however we will always err on the side of caution and should a child have a temperature rising above 37.5, appropriate actions to notify parents will be put in place.

An emergency bottle of Calpol will be kept on the premises (in the office). **This should only be administered if a child’s temperature is in excess of 39.5 degrees to help prevent a febrile convulsion**. Consent from either Natalie Taylor or Joanne Knight is required, and a parent must give verbal consent. Following this the parent MUST collect the child from nursery regardless of whether the temperature has decreased or not and a parent must be on route to collect the child when it is administered. An ambulance may be called if the qualified first aider deems it necessary.

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