

Acorn Pre-school and the Mighty Oaks Clubs, Shefford

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

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health
 The provider must promote the good health of the children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and take appropriate action if children are ill.

Policy statement

At Acorn, we provide care for children through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance.

EYFS key themes and commitments

| A Unique Child | Positive Relationships | Enabling Environments | Learning & Development |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.4 Health & well-being | 2.2 Parents as partners 2.4 Key person | 3.2 Supporting every child | |

Procedures

Children who are sick or infectious

- If a child appears unwell during the day, e.g., has a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach, then the manager will call the parents and asks them to collect the child or send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- The child's temperature is taken using a forehead thermometer strip, which is kept in the first aid box.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing and using a cold compress, but kept out of draughts.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance should be called and the child should be taken to the nearest hospital and the parent informed.
- If a child has been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After an episode of sickness or diarrhoea, parents are asked to keep children home for at least 48 hours.
- We can refuse to admit a child who has a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Acorn has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from ww.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374 and includes common childhood illnesses such as chicken pox.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.

When Acorn becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager will inform Ofsted and act 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 rubber gloves are used for cleaning/slucing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is bagged for parents to collect and launder.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution, 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.
- 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.

Procedures for children with allergies

When a child starts at Acorn, parents complete our registration form where they are asked if their child has any allergies. If a child has an allergy, the following information is noted:

- What 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.
- Staff are trained in how to administer special medication in the event of an allergic reaction.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within Acorn.

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. 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 and follow procedures based on advice given in *Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings* (DfES 2005).

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.
- Acorn must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.

2. Managing children who are sick, infectious or with allergies policy and procedure

- All procedures will be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
- Acorn must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent will be kept on file.

Life saving medication and 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 provider 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
- 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 documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

Key person for special needs children

With regards to any child 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.
- The key person must 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 Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department for appraisal (if you have another provider, please check their procedures with them). Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

If you are unsure about any aspect, contact the Pre-school Learning Alliance Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk.

Further guidance

Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings (DfES 2005)

See also

Administering medicines policy

Recording and reporting accidents and incidents

Contagious illnesses

This policy gained staff consent on 23rd October 2013

This policy was the subject of parent consultation between 21st November 2013

and 5th December 2013

This policy was adopted at a minuted full meeting of the Committee held on

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Confirmed on behalf of Acorn Pre-school and the Mighty Oaks Clubs

Signature

Position Date