Early Years Policy – Administration of Medication

Attachment 1 - Procedure for the Safe Administration of Medication

Medication can only be administered:

* if it has been prescribed by a registered medical practitioner, from its original container with the original label including the name of the child for whom it is prescribed, before the expiry or use-by date; or
* from its original container, with the original label and instructions and before the expiry or use-by date, and in accordance with any instructions attached to the medication or provided by a registered medical practitioner, either verbally or in writing.

Two staff, one of whom must be an educator, are responsible for the administration of any medication. At least one of these persons must hold a current approved first aid qualification.

One person will check the details (including dosage and the identity of the child who is given the medication) and witness its administration, while the other person will administer the medication (Regulation 95(c)).

Before administering any medication to a child, it is extremely important for staff to check if the child has any allergies to the medication being administered.

Procedure for administration of medication:

1. Wash and dry hands thoroughly before administering any medication. If appropriate, gloves are recommended wherever possible.
2. Check the medication record to confirm date, time, dosage and the child to whom the medication is to be administered.
3. Check that prescription medication:

* is in its original container, bearing the original label and instructions
* is the correct medication, as listed in the medication record
* has the child’s name on it (if the medication was prescribed by a registered medical practitioner)
* is the required dosage, as listed in the medication record
* has not passed its expiry date.

1. Check that non-prescription medication:

* is in the original container, bearing the original label and instructions
* is the correct medication, as listed in the medication record
* has the child’s name on it
* is the required dosage, as listed in the medication record
* has not passed its expiry date.

1. When administering the medication, ensure that:

* the identity of the child is confirmed and matched to the specific medication
* the correct dosage is given
* the medication is administered in accordance with the instructions attached to the medication, or any written or verbal instructions provided by a registered medical practitioner
* both staff members complete the medication record (Regulation 92(3)(h)) and store any remaining medication appropriately, such as in the refrigerator, if required
* one person will check the details (including dosage and the identity of the child who is given the medication) and witness its administration, while the other person will administer the medication and monitor the effect of the medication (Regulation 95(c))
* inform the parent/guardian on arrival to collect the child that medication has been administered and ensure that the parent/guardian completes the required details in the medication record.

Administration of medication for ongoing medical conditions

Where a child is diagnosed with a condition that requires ongoing medication or medication to be administered in emergencies, parents/guardians may authorise the administration of the medication for a defined period. In these cases:

* a medical management plan completed by the child’s doctor should be provided and attached to the child’s enrolment form (and on display, where appropriate)
* the medical management plan should define:
  + the name of the medication, dosage and frequency of administration
  + conditions under which medication should be administered
  + what actions, if any, should be taken following the administration of the medication
  + when the plan will be reviewed.
* when medication is required under these circumstances, staff should:
  + follow the procedures listed above
  + ensure that the required details are completed in the medication record
  + notify the parents as soon as is practicable.

Refer to the Early Years Policy - Dealing with Medical Conditions for further information.