

CRADLEY NURSERY

SICKNESS AND MEDICATION POLICY

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<u>Dates</u>				
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Statement of Intent

We promote the good health of children attending Nursery and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection. If a child requires prescribed medicine we will obtain information from parents and ensure it is kept up to date. When dealing with medication of any kind in the Nursery, strict guidelines will be followed.

Sickness

It is essential that parents notify staff about their child's state of health on arrival: whether the child is suffering or has recently suffered from any illness, in particular a high temperature. We do not expect parents to bring a child who has had a loose motion; or who has been vomiting within the past 48 hours. If you don't tell us the children generally do!

We would be grateful for the co-operation and understanding of parents and carers if your child is unwell. Poorly children need rest and quiet at home and a Carer who they are familiar with to look after them. This produces the best results for all concerned until your child is fully well again. Medications such as antibiotics need time to work in order to prevent further infection and a tired, poorly child will gain nothing from being in a Nursery environment and will take much longer to recover.

Children must be excluded if suffering from any infectious illness until recovered. In cases of diarrhoea and vomiting, the child will need to be kept away from nursery for at least 48 hours since the last evacuation. Children of Nursery school age have yet to develop an immune system and are therefore very susceptible to picking up infections from other children either through airborne transmission or from touching things which poorly children have been playing with. We therefore rely completely on the honesty of our parents if they are poorly outside of Nursery hours. If a child is sick in Nursery, parents will be contacted and asked to collect. If a child has diarrhoea, in the first instance, parents will be contacted and informed. In the second instance the parents will be phoned and asked to collect.

A poster of childhood illnesses and periods of exclusion can be found for consultation in the Nursery Foyer. Parents can also ask the advice of staff over the phone if they are not sure whether to bring their child into Nursery.

Medication

Cradley Nursery is concerned about the risk associated with administering medicines and worries about the statistical possibility that the more medicines we administer to children the greater the likelihood is that we will get it wrong, even though we have a robust control mechanism, with the associated potentially catastrophic effects.

Although Cradley Nursery's experienced staff are qualified and competent Early Years Practitioners and the majority are also trained in paediatric first aid, they are not medical practitioners and it is unreasonable to put them into a situation where they could unwittingly be at risk of harming, rather than helping, an unwell child.

It is therefore our policy not to administer **any** medicine in the Nursery unless the following criterion applies:

1. The child has an ongoing medical condition that is not contagious and which is considered reasonable to be treated within the Nursery

2. The medicine is prescribed by a medical practitioner
3. The medicine is in its original packaging, particularly the outer container
4. We have received a signed medication authorization form from parents/carers
5. On the rare occasion where a child's temperature is at a level which causes extreme concern and the parent/carer is not able to get to the nursery quickly a member of staff will ask for your permission over the telephone to administer Calpol which will be supervised by either the Manager or Deputy Manager. This will be the exception and not the norm. We will not administer any non-prescribed medicine on any other occasion. If a child has had a dose of Calpol to see them through a day at Nursery there is a high possibility that we will phone you to come and collect your child once it has worn off. A child who needs Calpol before attending Nursery is probably not well enough to enjoy a busy day with all their friends.

All medications are to:

- be stored in their original containers,
- bear the child's name
- be checked that they are still in date
- be kept inaccessible to children, either in the store cupboard or the fridge in the Staffroom.

When medicine is being administered it must be checked by the Nursery Manager/Deputy Manager accompanied by a paediatric first aider to ensure the correct medication and quantity is given as directed on the label attached to the medicine and the label on the outer packaging, plus the signed parental consent form. All children on prescribed medication must have received a dose at least 24 hours before coming to Nursery to ensure there is no allergic reaction to the medicine. This will be recorded on the Medicine Form.

Only qualified members of staff may give medicine to children. The person administering the medicine is responsible for ensuring that the medication form has been completed correctly. This must be signed and verified by the Manager/Deputy Manager.

Measures for High Temperatures

- Take the child's temperature
- Record the child's temperature on the form
- Take layers of clothing off to help reduce the temperature
- Give the child some water to drink
- Call the parent and record the time of the call
- Ask the parent to collect the child
- Comfort the child if upset but try not to cuddle for too long due to own body heat
- Record and monitor every ten minutes

- If it continues to rise call the parent again to find out how long they will be and explain that temperature is still rising and that an ambulance will need to be called due to high risk of febrile convulsions
- In the event of an ambulance a senior member/Key Person to accompany child to hospital ensuring they take Child Confidential Record and a mobile phone
- Phone emergency contacts if you cannot get hold of the parent
- Upon return, management to inform Ofsted

Minimum time children should be away from Nursery due to illness:

Prescribed antibiotics	First 24 hours at home
Temperature	Will be sent home and cannot return until a normal temperature has returned for at least twenty four hours
Vomiting and Diarrhoea	Child must be kept away from nursery for 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhea
Conjunctivitis	Child will be sent home and can return once medication has been administered
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash
Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning, salmonellosis and dysentery	Until authorised by a doctor
Measles	Four days from the onset of rash
Mumps	Five days after the onset of swelling
Impetigo	Until skin has completely healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
Ring worm of scalp	until cured
Ringworm of body	seldom needs exclusion

Cradley Nursery must be informed if a child has a contagious disease/illness in order to prevent the illness spreading and to be able to inform members of staff who may be particularly at risk, for example if pregnant. Such information will be treated sensitively and in a confidential manner. Parents must inform Nursery if their child has been admitted to hospital and Nursery must inform MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or Ofsted in the case of a Safeguarding incident.

Children must remain at home after receiving injections for 24hrs in case of reaction or high temperature. If a child receives an MMR vaccination they must remain at home for 48hrs due to the high content of injection. This is in place as a precaution because children can have allergic reactions

to the immunizations. This is the case for all injections, even if they have had them before because an allergy can develop at any stage.

Cradley Nursery may reserve the right to request a letter from the child's GP before allowing them to return to the Nursery.

Fees are still payable regardless of whether your child has been kept off ill or has been sent home ill.

Staff Medication

This must be securely stored in a locker or the staffroom fridge. Management must be informed if any staff have medication on site and ensure it does not impair their work and that they are able to care for children in the Nursery.

Storage

All medication for children must have the child's name written clearly on the original container and kept in the storage cupboard, out of reach of children and under supervision at all times.

Emergency medication such as inhalers and epipens will be within easy reach of staff but not children. These must be checked and replenished when necessary. Children needing medicine which is out of date will not be allowed to remain on site.

No medication to be stored in children's bags.

All medication records will be filed confidentially.

If at any point during the course of medication staff administer the treatment incorrectly the parents will be telephoned immediately and the Management team will take appropriate measures. This could be either calling a local GP, NHS direct or taking the child in to hospital.

Reporting

Any incidents of serious illness, serious accident, injury, hospitalisation, death or food poisoning will be reported to Ofsted by the Nursery Line-Manager. This must be done as soon as possible or within 14 days of the incident. Failure to do so will be considered an offence.

The Nursery will inform the MASH team of any serious accident, or serious injury or death.