Medication, Sickness and Emergency policy

Medication:

It is the policy of The Rocking Horse Day Nursery that children who are starting any medicine need to stay at home for the first 24 hours before returning to nursery. This is to ensure your child does not have a reaction to the medicine, is well enough to return to nursery and the illness cannot be spread to other children or staff. For repeat medicine: if your child has previously had a course of medicine and needs more after a short break (for example they've not had any for 3 weeks), we will accept them into nursery 4 hours after the 1st dose has been given. This is for the same reasons as above.
The decision for accepting children who have an infection (such as conjunctivitis or impetigo) where no medicine is required but the child can pass the infection to others in the nursery, is at the discretion of the senior member of staff.

The decision of accepting children who have been or are currently a unwell into nursery is at the discretion of the senior member of staff.

The senior member of staff must follow the medication procedure below.

Medication procedure

If your child is well enough to return to nursery, we can accept prescribed medication and will administer when needed. **We only accept prescribed medication stored in the original container with the prescription label stating the child's name. They must have been taking the medication for 24 hours before they come into nursery in case of a reaction**. A medication form will be completed by a senior member of staff with the parent/carer prior to the child receiving medication at nursery. Parents give consent to medicine being given to their child and we keep written records. Medicine is kept safely out of children's reach, stored in accordance with the products instructions, often being kept in the fridge. The greatest care will be taken to ensure that it is administered according to the written instructions. A senior/group leader will give the medicine whilst being checked by a second member of staff (not bank staff). Both will sign the medication form. Information regarding giving the medication will be added to the medicine form and the parent/carer will be given verbal feedback and asked to sign the medicine form for a second time on collection. The same

medicine form will be used over the course of the medicine, until finished. The medicine form is then filed in the child's individual file in the office.

Administering specific medication

With the administration of specific medication, i.e. EpiPen, individual training is provided for staff from a qualified health professional, working closely with the parent. Training is specific to the needs of the individual child. A Care plan will be filled out with all the relevant information and information is shared with all staff and fully discussed during a staff meeting.

Administering Calpol

When a child at nursery becomes unwell, the keyperson ensures that he/she is comfortable and cared for sensitively while waiting to be collected by the parent. It is our practice for a senior member of staff to contact the parent/carer and arrange for the child to be collected within the hour.

In an emergency Calpol can be given (following the Calpol procedure) by the senior member of staff, as an interim measure when the temperature is high while waiting for the parent to arrive, however Calpol could mask signs and symptoms of the illness.

If your child has been sent home unwell and has been given Calpol either at nursery or by parents/carers they will need to stay at home for 24 hours to ensure complete recovery. When a child is sent home unwell without a temperature and/or Calpol having been administered, the child can return to nursery when they are fully recovered.

Administering Calpol continued:

The senior member of staff will administer Calpol making the necessary entries on the Calpol form and receiving the parent's signature when they arrive at nursery to collect their child.

The decision of giving Calpol is at the discretion of the senior member in charge after discussing the situation with the parent and being aware of the child's symptoms.

Administering non prescribed medicines before nursery:

In accordance with the childcare agreement, we do not accept children on the premises who are unwell or who have been given Calpol/Nurofen 24 hours before coming to nursery. It is your responsibility to inform a senior member of staff of any medication given to your child before coming to nursery, eg Calpol/Nurofen. Please be aware that we will contact you if your child shows any signs or symptoms of being unwell, and you will be expected to come and collect them within an hour. Our reasons for this are to safeguard and protect your child, other children

and staff. We are unable to provide one to one care and attention for a sick child. If your child has been sent home from nursery due to illness, they must remain at home for 24 hours to ensure complete recovery before returning to nursery.

Creams

The first dose of creams for nappy rash, eczema, the sun, etc, must be given by the parent before coming to nursery. This is in case of a reaction. A form will need to be completed and signed by the parent before we can administer any cream.

Sickness:

If your child has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea and is showing signs of being unwell then we will need to contact the parent to collect their child. ***This is the decision of the senior member in charge.***

It is our policy that children who have sickness and diarrhoea must remain at home for 48 hours after the last bout. This is for the well being of the child as well as children and staff in the nursery. This is an NHS policy, which is adhered to nationally. ***The child can then return to nursery at the discretion of the senior member in charge.***

Staff must adhere to the control of infection, through hand washing with an antibacterial hand wash, using gloves when changing nappies or dealing with a child who has had an accident, or has had sickness or diarrhoea. Also using a disinfectant spray for the bathroom area, changing mats, tables and chairs (see Health and Safety policy).

Emergency Policy and procedure

It is our policy that all senior staff are Pediatric First Aid trained.

In the Case of a serious accident or illness occurring, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately along with the medical professional and all appropriate action taken.

In the unlikely event of the parent not being available then the senior member of staff will assume charge and if necessary go with the child to hospital by ambulance, along with all relevant details. An accident/incident report will be completed by staff and discussed with the parents.

Chickenpox Policy

It is our policy that if a child has chicken pox he/she must remain home until all the spots have dried up.

Head lice policy

It is our policy that children who have lice are treated as they can be passed by head to head contact. If a child has several lice then they will need to go home to be treated to prevent them spreading. Please seek advice from your pharmacist for the most recent treatment. A child may return once lice have been treated.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

This is a common viral infection. As well as seeming generally unwell, typical symptoms are loss of appetite, cough, high temperature, non-itchy red rash which can sometimes develop into painful blisters and painful mouth ulcers. There is no treatment as the condition is self-limiting and symptoms will usually pass within 7 days. It is however highly contagious particularly in nursery settings. A child remains contagious until about a week after the symptoms begin. The virus is spread through coughs, sneezes and contaminated surfaces including through fluids from saliva and blisters.

It is our policy that children with hand foot and mouth must remain at home for 5 days after the symptoms appear as they will still be contagious and likely to feel unwell.

Inhaler policy

We accept inhalers at the rocking horse day nursery and with parent's consent we administer when needed, following the directions given by the health care professionals.

It is impossible to list every infectious illness; therefore, it is at the discretion of the senior member of staff in charge to decide whether the child is well enough to stay at nursery.

Signed: Julia Davies
Date: April 2025