



Childhood Illness and Medication Policy

Illness and Infection

At Caterpillar Nursery, we promote good health and hygiene of children and staff attending nursery and take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection.

This policy has been devised in line with the EYFS, and Public Health England to ensure that children who become unwell at nursery are treated sensitively and with respect. It also helps us to protect other children and team from illness and infection.

The nursery is not allowed to admit any children onto the premises who appear to be suffering from an infectious or contagious illness or disease. Caterpillar Nursery follows the guidance from the Public Health Agency, however we do reserve the right to refuse children into nursery if they have an illness that is contagious and may impact on the wellbeing of other attendees.

Parents and carers are required to inform the nursery upon of any absence, whenever is reasonably possible, particularly around illness or significant injury.

In circumstances where a family has informed the setting of an infectious or communicable disease, nursery management will contact families via email, including advise from the Public Health Agency and/or NHS.

Day to Day

It is expected that all members of Caterpillar Nursery Team are aware of individual children's temperaments, and can recognise through observation alone if a child appears unwell. If there are concerns on whether a child may be poorly, or presenting symptoms; e.g rash, bodily fluid, a *Child Health Monitoring Form*, must be completed.

Practitioners must make note of any concerns they have of signs and symptoms presented, along with actions taken, such as removal of layers, or body check for spots. Permission **MUST** be sort from a child before such 'check' is completed.

Where necessary, practitioners will complete a temperature check, using a non-contact thermometer. Any temperature above 37°C, will be monitored and logged every 10 minutes using the *Child Health Monitoring Form*. Under the NHS, a child is recognised as having a high temperature at 38°C or more.

Should a child present a temperature of 37.6°C, practitioners will follow *Administration of Medication* procedure, within this policy – this will depend on each individual child, at the discretion of each key person and parent.

Children with a temperature of 39°C or above will be asked to be collected immediately.

Parents must inform practitioners if their child has had any medication prior to attending the setting.



Where medication has been administered at nursery, and there are no changes to the child's wellbeing within 30 minutes, parents will be contacted to collect and requested to keep at home until they no longer require temperature reducing medication.

If there are concerns that a child is demonstrating signs of a communicable infectious disease, parents will be contacted to collect, immediately and exclusions will be applied in line with [Public Health Exclusions Oct 2022](#).

In an Emergency

If a child becomes seriously ill or injured during their attendance, Caterpillar Nursery reserves the right to call for emergency assistance and where necessary, supervise transport to hospital and give permission for emergency treatment to be administered. In these situations, Caterpillar Nursery will make an effort to contact parents listed on the registration form. In incidence where this is unsuccessful, we will then contact emergency numbers provided upon admission; therefore it is vital that this information remains relevant and up to date, informing us of any changes.

Febrile Convulsions, anaphylactic shock and other fit or seizure

If a child has any of the above an ambulance must be called immediately and the same steps taken as above. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that may require resuscitation measures. Administration of epinephrine (auto-injector) may be necessary.

Administration of Medication

The following is a guide to how and when medicine will be administered at Caterpillar Nursery. However, the final decision regarding the administration of all medication is the responsibility of the Management Team. All medication is stored in the locked cabinet or the fridge in the nursery kitchen/office.

All medication, irrespective of prescription or non-prescription, must have been administered at home 24 hours prior attendance at Caterpillar Nursery to monitor for any adverse reactions.

Oral medication must only be administered with medical syringe supplied or medical spoon as directed. The dosage amounts must be visible on either the syringe or spoon.

Prescribed Medication

Prescription medicines and antibiotics must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

Where a child requires Long Term as a result of a medical condition or chronic illness, *Long Term Medication Form* will be completed by a member of the management team, ensuring that all sections are completed.



Parents will be required to sign each day medication is administered. It is the responsibility of the Key Person to review Long Term Medication each half term to ensure that there is sufficient supply, the medication is within date, and the purpose of the medication is still valid. A new form is completed if there are any changes to the dosage, container or any other circumstances; including key person.

Medication such as an inhaler or an Injector Pen will need to remain on the nursery premises along with completed health care plans.

Antibiotics

Caterpillar Nursery Management Team will ensure that all antibiotics have a completed script and contain the information pamphlet, informing of when medication can be given. Parents must inform Caterpillar Nursery of the reasons for taking antibiotics and the duration of which the prescription will be for. Management will then check this alongside information presented in the pharmacy/dispensary label.

Antibiotics will be logged on the *Short Term Medication Form*, and handed back to parents at the end of each session.

If the nursery complete the medication on site, the empty container is returned to the parent. Caterpillar Nursery will not dispose of any medical container or device.

Non-Prescribed (Over the Counter) Medication

Non-prescription medication such as eyedrops to treat conjunctivitis must only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer. Eye drops can be purchased over the counter however a pharmacy label would be preferred, please ask your pharmacist to apply a label where possible.

Infantile Suspension

Upon enrolment, families must provide up to two sachets of infantile suspension – either paracetamol or ibuprofen – to be kept in the child's personal file until required. Practitioners will label these upon accepting them into nursery. When retrieving this medication to give to a child, authorisation must be checked by the management team.

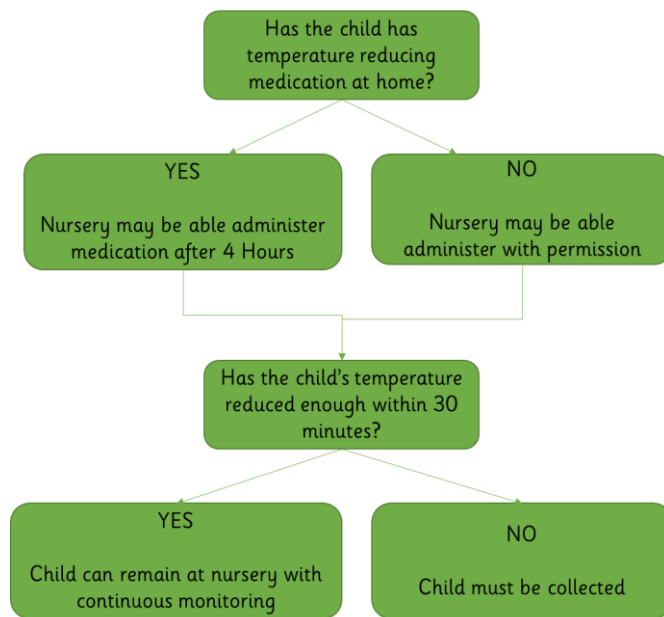
Temperature Reducing Medication, also known as Infantile Suspension, will be administered by a member of the management team and will be done so in accordance to the instructions. In all circumstances, this must be witnessed by another member of staff, who will confirm that the medication is in date and the correct dosage is given.

All doses will be recorded on the *Infantile Suspension Log*, with all information completed, and any used medication will be requested to be replaced.

Where families have failed to provide or replace medication, children will be asked to be collected.



Medication procedure for high temperature is as follows:



Caterpillar Nursery will not administer another dose of Infantile Suspension within 24 hours or within three consecutive days. Parents will be advised to contact their GP for further advise if a child requires temperature reducing medication for more than two days.

Caterpillar Nursery **may** give one dose of infantile suspension if a child complains of pain, with parental authorisation. All symptoms will be recorded on the *Child Health Monitoring Form*.

Antihistamines

Antihistamine (Piriton) syrup may be administered in an emergency whilst your child is in the nursery. Upon joining the nursery parents will be asked to sign a form to provide first aid upon enrolment, which includes emergency treatment. This is recorded on *Short Term Medication Form*

If antihistamines have been prescribed by your child's GP, this will be recorded on a *Short Term Medication Form* and reviewed each half term.

Other Medication

Creams/Ointments/Lotions

Creams or lotions either prescribed or purchased must be discussed with your child's key person and written on to the appropriate form, depending on need. The container will be labelled with your child's name and the date that it was opened. If there is any change in the cream to be given, a new form will be completed. Medicine

Herbal or Homeopathic

Due to the implications surrounding the regulation of herbal and homeopathic medication, Caterpillar Nursery will not administer such medicines, but will record anytime this is given by a parent/carer. This includes teething remedies.



In addition, any other medication to treat coughs or colds, such as vapour rub or cough medicine, will not be accepted.

Failure to Collect

Where a parent/carer has been contacted and asked to collect their child on medical grounds we expect this to be within one hour of the initial contact from the nursery. Where parents/carer are unable to collect within this time or if parents/carers have not returned the nursery's call regarding the arrangements for the collection of their child this will be treated as failure to collect and we reserve the right to telephone the emergency contacts and request that they collect the child. If, after a further 30 minutes the staff have been unsuccessful in contacting the child's parents/guardians or other named emergency contacts or there will be considerable delay in the child being collected Front Door Social Services will be contacted on 01926 414144, where their advice will be sought and followed. Where possible, messages will be left on parent's/carers answer phones to inform them of the procedure being followed. Please note that where a parent/carers has been contacted and asked to collect their child on medical grounds and the parent/guardian has refused to do so this will be treated as failure to collect and the above procedure will be followed.

Medication on Trips and Outings

Children are accompanied by their key person, or other staff member who is fully informed about their needs and medication. Medication is taken in a secure box labelled with the child's name, name of medication and correct medication form.

If a child on medication has to be taken to hospital, the child's medication is transported with the child.

Staff Medication

Staff taking medication must inform their manager using the suitability form, alongside the health questionnaire – or raise in supervision meetings. Any medication taken during operating hours must be stored securely in staff lockers or a secure area away from the children. The manager must be made aware of any contra-indications for the medicine so that they can risk assess and take appropriate action as required.

Safeguarding

If there are any incidences in which the Caterpillar Nursery team become concerned of medical abuse or induced illness, necessary procedures following our Safeguarding and Welfare policies come into practice, which may result in contacting GP's, Front Door, and/or the Police.

This policy is in collision with the Short Term Medication Form, Long Term Medication Form, Infantile Suspension Record, and Child Health Monitoring Form.

This policy is adopted by Caterpillar Nursery & PreSchool from January 2023, and reviewed annually to impose any changes.

NHS Guidance on Signs, Symptoms and Services for Young Children:

| YOU SHOULD GO TO A&E AND/OR CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY IF | |
|--|---|
| <p>APPEARANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pale/mottled/ashen/blue colour ▶ Collapsed/unresponsive/loss of consciousness ▶ No obvious pulse or heartbeat ▶ Severe allergic reaction <p>BEHAVIOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Extreme irritability/pain/sleepiness (can be woken but falls asleep immediately) ▶ Seizure/jerking movements/fit | <p>BREATHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sucking in and out between ribs ▶ Flaring nostrils ▶ Extremely fast breathing ▶ Noisy breathing <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bleeding from an injury, that doesn't stop after 10 minutes of pressure |
| YOU SHOULD GO TO A&E IF | |
| <p>APPEARANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Dizziness/feeling faint ▶ Rash that does not fade when you press it <p>BEHAVIOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Severe constant tummy pain <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Burn ▶ Possible broken bone | <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Swallowed foreign objects (especially magnets/batteries) ▶ Temperature higher than 38°C in a baby younger than three months old ▶ Your child has special health care needs and you have a plan that tells you to go to A&E ▶ Feels abnormally cold to touch ▶ Expressing suicidal/significant selfharm thoughts |
| YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR GP IF | |
| <p>APPEARANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mild/mod allergic reaction (known or suspected) ▶ New rash that fades when you press on it <p>BEHAVIOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mild irritability/sleepier than normal ▶ Severe tummy pain that comes and goes ▶ Vomiting and diarrhoea ▶ Not passed urine for more than 12 hours | <p>BREATHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wheezing/fast breathing <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Temperature >39°C (age 3-12 months) ▶ Temperature over 38°C for more than 7 days ▶ Accidental overdose of medication or other substances ▶ Ear pain for more than 2 days ▶ Emotional distress, that can't be reassured |
| YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH 111 OR YOUR COMMUNITY PHARMACIST IF | |
| <p>APPEARANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pink eyes/red eyes <p>BEHAVIOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ear pain for less than 2 days ▶ Mild tummy pain that comes and goes | <p>BREATHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cough ▶ Runny nose <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Temperature over 38°C for less than 7 days |