

3. Health and Safety

3.2 Managing children with allergies, or who are sick or infectious

(Including reporting notifiable diseases)

Policy Statement

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

EYFS Key themes and commitments

| A Unique Child | Positive Relationships | Enabling Environments | Learning and Development |
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| 1.2 Inclusive practice 1.4 Health and wellbeing | 2.2 Parents as partners 2.4 Key person | 3.2 Supporting every child | |

Procedures for children with allergies

- Prior to new children attending the setting, parents are asked if their child suffers from any known allergies. Details are recorded on their Admissions Form.
- If a child has an allergy, a Care Plan is completed to detail the following:
 - ✓ The allergen (i.e.: the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
 - ✓ The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g.: rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems, anaphylactic shock reaction 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.
 - ✓ When the allergy, cause and symptoms will be reviewed.
- The Admissions Form is kept in the Admissions Folder and the information is also recorded in the "Allergies, Medical Conditions and Personal Preferences" file, which is kept in plain sight in the kitchen, open on the appropriate page for the day. If a

child attends the setting for an extra session all staff, students and volunteers are made aware.

- If a child suffers from a severe allergy, as defined by the need for invasive treatment in the case of exposure/an anaphylactic reaction, a full Risk Assessment will be carried out and mitigating actions put in place to remove chance of exposure.
- All staff receive EpiPen training as part of their Paediatric First Aid training to enable them to administer them in the event of a severe allergic reaction.
- No nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Prior to new children attending the setting, parents sign the Parental/Carer Agreement to say that they agree not to send any nuts or food containing nuts into the setting under any circumstances.
- In the case of a severe allergy, appropriate information is recorded in the allergies book regarding daily routine and purchase and storage of food, activity ingredients and equipment. A check of the entire premises is carried out, if appropriate, to ensure any relevant items are removed and replaced if required (for example bubble mixture replaced with a hypoallergenic version etc).
- If an allergy emerges after the child has started attending the preschool, it is the parent/carer's responsibility to inform the preschool of the child's new requirements and medical needs.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

Preschool insurance will automatically cover children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to, as set out below:

Oral Medication

Asthma inhalers are now regarded as "oral medication" by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to insurance providers.

- Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP.
- The setting must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication and/or receive training as appropriate.
- All risk assessment procedures need to be adhered to for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
- The setting must have the parent or guardian's prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to insurance providers.
- Staff will not administer over the counter medications such as paracetamol or ibuprofen suspensions (e.g.: Calpol) as there may mask developing symptoms.
- Children should be kept at home from preschool if their illness requires the use of such over the counter medication (Calpol or similar) until they have recovered, or the medicine is no longer required (e.g.: 24 hours).

Life-saving medication & invasive treatments

In respect of adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc. or invasive treatments, the setting must have:

- Signed confirmation 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; and
- Proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist, a community paediatric nurse or in paediatric first aid training certificates stating such training.
- In the case of some treatments other medical or social care personnel may need to be involved in the child's medical care.

In respect of children with additional needs and requiring help with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g.: breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc, the setting must have:

- Prior written consent from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
- Key person, and all staff where appropriate, to have the relevant medical training.

At all times the administration of medication must be compliant with the Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Procedures for children/staff who are sick or infectious.

- If children appear unwell during the day - have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach - the manager or delegated member of staff calls the parents and asks for the child to be collected.
- Temperature is taken using a digital thermometer kept in the first aid box. The results are recorded on the "Child taken ill whilst at preschool" form with all other relevant details.
- In cases of emergency, the child may be taken to hospital and the parent informed. A copy of the "Child taken ill whilst at preschool" form is taken with the child to provide relevant information to medical staff.
- The preschool will refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are required to keep them at home for 24 hours after the first dose is taken before returning to the setting.
- After any incident of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, parents are required to keep children home for 48 hours after it has stopped.
- The setting has a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times contained within "The Spotty Book: Notes on Infections Disease in Schools and Nurseries" in the committee room. This also contains a full list of common childhood illnesses.

- If a child, children or adult is suffering from a contagious/infectious disease, we will adhere to Government guidance and to Public Health England guidelines.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed suffering from a notifiable disease under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988, their GP will report this to the Health Protection Agency.
- When the setting becomes aware, or is formally informed of the notifiable disease, the manager acts on any advice given by Public Health England/Health Protection Agency.

Nits and head lice

- Children will not normally be refused attendance to preschool if they are found to have nits or head lice. However, in exceptional cases a parent may be asked to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are given a letter informing them that a case has been reported and are asked to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Information Sharing about allergies and medical conditions.

- Where a child attending the preschool suffers from an allergy or a medical condition, or if there are any changes to the above, the child's communication log is completed, and the information is passed on to staff immediately.
- If a child suffers from a contagious condition, or if there are particular concerns about a child who has a severe allergy requiring restrictions (on lunchboxes for example), emails are sent to all families as soon as possible. Individual children are never named.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of **Comeytrowe Under Fives Preschool Management Committee**

Held on: 26th June 2023

Date to be reviewed: March 2024

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:



Name of signatory: SARAH GREENSLADE

Role of signatory: CHAIRPERSON

Comeytrowe Under Fives Preschool