

Managing children who are sick, infectious with allergies or asthma

Policy statement

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

Procedures for children who are sick or infectious

- If children appear unwell during the day – for example, if they have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – our manager or deputy call the parents and ask them to collect the child, or to send a known carer to collect the child on their behalf.
- If a child has a temperature, they are kept cool, by removing top clothing, but kept away from draughts.
- The child's temperature is taken using an ear thermometer kept in the first aid cabinet.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; we can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infectious illness or complaint, we ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After diarrhoea and or vomiting we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.

Reporting of 'notifiable diseases'

- If a child or adult is diagnosed as suffering from a notifiable disease under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010, the GP will report this to Public Health England.
- When we become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager informs Ofsted and contacts Public Health England, and act[s] on any advice given.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases we may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, we inform all parents ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies

- When children start at the setting we ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form.
- If a child has an allergy, we record the following details:
 - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings etc).
 - The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock, rash, reddening of skin, swelling 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.

- Review measures.
- Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in, for example to a party.

Procedures for children with asthma

- The Lantern Preschool is committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families. In this we recognise that asthma is an important condition affecting many children. At the Lantern Preschool we will:
 - Encourage and help children with asthma to participate fully in activities.
 - Ensure children have immediate access to reliever inhalers.
 - Reassure parents of children with asthma that their children are in a safe, caring environment.
- When the child joins the setting the parents will record on the registration form if their child suffers with asthma.
- An 'administering medication' form is completed with the following details:
 - What medication is to be take
 - When it is to be taken
 - How it is to be taken
 - How to tell if the child's asthma is getting worse
 - What to do if the child's asthma gets worse
- Inhaler and spacer must be clearly labelled with child's name and checked that it is in date.
- Ensure that a record is kept each time a child takes medication.
- Make sure that the person collecting the child is informed if the child has had to take medication.
- Ask parents to bring a spare inhaler to be kept at the group in case of emergency.
- Make sure the inhalers are always taken on group trips.
- Ensure any spare medication stored by the group is labelled and has not passed its expiry date.