**Stratton Playgroup**

**6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies**

**Policy statement**

At Stratton Playgroup, 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 / supervisor / session lead will 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 and sponging their heads with cool water, but kept away from draughts.
* The child's temperature is taken using a thermometer, kept in the first aid box.
* If the child’s temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then we may give them Calpol or another similar analgesic, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child. Parents sign consent for this on their child’s registration form.
* In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
* We can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
* When a child starts taking any medicine, it will be at playgroup’s discretion whether a child should come to playgroup for the first 24 hours. This will be based on:
* What the medicine is for
* Have they taken the medicine before
* Are they contagious before the medicine takes effect
* Are they well enough to attend playgroup
* We will also always follow the guidelines for that illness
* After diarrhoea, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
* Some activities, such as sand and water play, and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
* We have a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable from

www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\_C/1194947358374 and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles.

*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 acts on any advice given.

*HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure*

HIV virus, like other viruses such as Hepatitis A, B and C, are spread through body fluids. Hygiene precautions for dealing with body fluids are the same for all children and adults. We:

* Encourage staff to wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children’s nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces or vomit, (disposable aprons and gloves are available for staff use).
* Use protective rubber gloves for cleaning/sluicing clothing after changing.
* Rinse soiled clothing and either bag it for parents to collect or launder it in the setting.
* Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
* Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit using a disinfectant.

*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 asking 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 make all staff aware and it is recorded on our allergies sheet.
* Two allergy / conditions lists are displayed where our staff can see them, one in the office and one in the kitchen cupboard.
* We may complete an individual health care plan 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. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems 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.
* This individual health care plan is kept on display inside the medicine cupboard door.
* Short term medicines administration forms are kept in a folder / clipboard, with the medicine, in the cupboard (unless the medicine is to be refrigerated). Once the course of treatment is finished, the form is filed in the child’s personal file.
* We have a No Nuts Policy at Stratton Playgroup.
* Parents are made aware so that no nut or nut products are accidentally brought in at all.

*Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities*

* If necessary, our insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.
* At all times we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
* Oral medication:
* Asthma inhalers are now regarded as ‘oral medication’ by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider. Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer’s instructions clearly written on them.
* We must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
* We adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
* We must have the parents or guardians prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.
* Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:

These include adrenaline injections (Epipens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).

* We must have:
* a letter 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 our 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 or a community paediatric nurse.
* Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to the Insurers for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.
* Relevant staff may be trained for children with complex needs, requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.:
* Prior written consent must be obtained from the child's parent or guardian to give treatment and/or medication prescribed by the child's GP.
* Training may include receiving appropriate instructions from parents or guardians.
* Copies of all letters relating to these children must first be sent to the Insurers for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.
* Treatments, such as inhalers or Epipens are immediately accessible in an emergency.
* If we are unsure about any aspect, we contact the Insurers: Morton Michel - Insurance for Pre-schools & Playgroups on tel.: 020 8603 0941; or email to: preschool@mortonmichel.com.

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| This policy was adopted by | Stratton Playgroup | *(name of provider)* |
| On | 19/07/2023 | *(date)* |
| Date to be reviewed | Jul-2026 | *(date)* |
| Signed on behalf of the provider |  | |
| Name of signatory |  | |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) |  | |

**Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

* Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (2009)
* Medication Administration Record (2013)