

Medication administration and Infection Control – September 2014

Angela and I went to training around Medication and Infection Control and the following initiatives have come out of this. Some of these procedures will be new to the families and if you feel unsure about any of this to please talk to me or Angela

- Medication can only be accepted by staff to give the children with a **medication authority** or a letter from the prescribing health professional. The instructions must match those on the pharmacy label of the container. If the child has medication and no authority you will be reminded of the policy and we will assist you to meet the requirements. An interim strategy for example: obtain verbal instructions from the doctor while he/she faxes through an authority.
- All medications including over the counter and alternative therapies, vitamins, and supplements need a written **medication authority**.
- All medication is to be prescribed by a health professional and provided as a daily dose. Medication must be within the expiry date of the product and delivered in the original container, with the label from the pharmacy. The parent/guardian can ask the pharmacist for a second labelled container to keep the extra medication at home.
- Medication must be stored in accordance with the product instructions and in the original container in which dispensed.
- A child should not take their first dose of a new medication at child care. If the child is on antibiotics they should have at least 24 hours of being on the medication before being in care. The child should be supervised by the family or a health professional in case of any reaction.
- Medication which is on a health plan, e.g. Ventolin, Epipens, Zyrtec, will need to be brought into the centre each day if required. In the past we had asked families to bring in this medication to be kept here and we were responsible for its storage. This is not our role and parents will need to be responsible for bringing this in each day if required for their child. There may be some times of the year when their medication is not required.

- We have purchased an “Allergy Buddy” for each room. The child’s parent/guardian will need to place their medication in this each day and take it home after care. Parents will only need to bring in the Ventolin if needed. Rooms should keep copies of the child’s action plans. If a child needed this type of medication in an emergency and didn’t have their Epipens/Ventolin at the centre the centre’s emergency one could be used following the child’s action plan.

- A medication log should be maintained to record the supervision of the medication.

- Staff members who supervise medication administration are responsible for the record management and should be informed at the time of receiving the medication authority.



- Educators are generally trained to supervise oral and measured dose inhaled medication and are generally not trained and cannot be expected to administer medication taken by other routes, e.g. eye or ear drops.
- Any medication (prescription or over the counter) including nappy creams requires a medication authority and associated care instructions to administer the medication.
- Doctors and Pharmacist also have medication authorities which may look different but will have similar information. These are also acceptable for our use. These medication authorities are available on the web site.
- As Educators we should not be monitoring children's temperatures. We will no longer be taking temperatures - this is not our role. If staff think your child is not well enough to be in care and they are not engaged in normal activity they should go home. This has always been the DECS policy. Health motoring is not our role. We can manage predictable health conditions. The child will need to go home to be monitored at home or to see a Doctor. By taking temperatures we are then making a decision on their wellness based on this information. We are not medical practitioners and cannot make judgements on this. Our role is to care and educate well children.
- The best form of infection control is hand washing with running water and soap. We were told for a hand wash to be the most effective you should be able to sing a verse of happy birthday or around 25 seconds. As most of us only wash for around 6 seconds, its something to work towards. Using the bacterial hand wash is a good idea when hand washing is not available but should not be used instead of hand washing when it is available.
- All parents will be given this new information and procedures through the web page and those children who are presently using Ventolin/Epipens will be given an individual letter letting their parents/guardians know of our expectations of them.

Thankyou

Janine McLoughlin

Director 24/9/2014