

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

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.

St. Saviour's Preschool cannot guarantee a completely allergen free environment, but we do aim to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

St. Saviour's Preschool is committed to a no food and drink sharing.

The *Statutory Framework* states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Registration Form, which is submitted before starting Pre-school.

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 – the manager or the child's key person 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.
- A child who is ill will be given an area of privacy in the hall and provided with a mattress and cover if they need to sleep. The parent/carer will be contacted and an adult will stay with the child until they arrive.
- The child's temperature is taken using a forehead thermometer strip, kept in the first aid box.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called and the parent informed.
- Parents may be 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 or vomiting, we ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- If two or more children suffer from food poisoning OFSTED will be informed.

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 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 or being told of cases of head lice in the setting, we inform all parents

Procedures for children with Allergies/ Anaphylaxis

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the child, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training and education to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

Parents' role

Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, ongoing accurate and current medical information to the Pre-school.

Parents to send a letter confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an epipen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a “healthcare plan” must be completed and signed by the parents.
- It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the Pre-school with up to date medication/ equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.
- In the case of life saving medication like Epipens, the child will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Snacks and lunches brought into pre-school, are provided by each child's Parent.

- It is their responsibility to ensure that the contents are safe for the child to consume.
- Parents should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

Staff role

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and adhering to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's Registration Form states that they have an allergy then a "healthcare plan" is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending.
- Upon determining that a child attending Pre-school has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all Staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of child's needs.
- All Staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/ medication is required by the Preschool Leader and where any medication is stored.
- All staff must to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snack time biscuits and snacks are monitored by Staff and are free from peanut, nuts and other allergens, depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch-time, to ensure the safety of children with allergies.
- However Staff cannot guarantee that foods brought in will not contain traces of nuts.
- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food.
- As part of the Staff first aid course, Epipen use and storage has been discussed.
- We may ask the Parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with Parents about snacks and any food-related activities.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- Person 1 places child in a comfortable, quiet place & stays to reassure him/her, administering anti-histamine if appropriate. If this fails:

- Send person 2 for EpiPen.
- Send person 3 to ring 999 (ambulance), then parent
- Person 1 checks they have correct kit for child & administers EpiPen as directed. Record time given on hand/paper, place used syringe in plastic box.
- Keep child warm, talking to her until ambulance arrives.
- Tell ambulance staff- time of injection, syringe is in box, pupil's health care plan details.
- Child must be accompanied to hospital by parent or practitioner.

Role of other parents

- Snacks and lunches brought to the Pre-school by other Parents should be peanut and nut free.
- The preschool will ensure that parents are regularly reminded and will monitor the contents of lunchboxes and snack.

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