

9. Medication, Allergy and Asthma policy and procedure

Bradley Playgroup does not accept children who are unwell at the time of arrival at the provision.

This policy relates to:

- Children who become unwell while attending Bradley Playgroup and the health care policy.
- The medication management for children in specific circumstances and links with the contract for parents/carers, admissions policy and equality and inclusion policy.

It is the policy of Bradley Playgroup to support any child who becomes unwell during their time in our care; and to welcome children who require prescribed medication to be administered to maintain their wellbeing while attending this provision, in line with the equality and inclusion policy.

We do this by operating the following procedure:

- In the event of a child becoming unwell, their needs are assessed and met as far as practicable, and the health care policy is implemented.
- Parents/carers complete the contract and registration form at admission and provide information about any changes to their child's health needs as soon as is practicable.
- Medication is administered only if it is prescribed by the child's doctor.
- Epi-pens (maximum of 2 per child) should only be administered when told to do so by the emergency operator or as a last resort. If staff feel that the epi-pen needs to be administered before the emergency services are contacted/ arrive, they must inform the operator that the pen has been administered and how many.
- Parents'/carers' written permission is obtained before any medication is administered.
- Written information relating to the child's individual medication is given to the provision including any possible side effects of the medication.
- Bradley Playgroup checks that any medication given conforms to the provision's insurance policy requirements.
- All adults in Bradley Playgroup know who is responsible for administering medication at any time.
- In circumstances where technical or medical knowledge is required for specific medication to be administered to a child, Bradley Playgroup may arrange for a nominated person to be trained by a qualified health professional, prior to the admission of the child, and update the training as needed.
- In the event of an ambulance being called Lead Supervisor Alex Newland or Deputy Wendy Thomas in Alex's absence will accompany the child and the Parents/ Carers will be contacted to meet at the hospital.

- If an ambulance has been called the child's registration form should go with the accompanying adult as this will include emergency contacts and personal information linked to the child being treated.
- If a member of staff needs to accompany a child to hospital, a member of the committee will be contacted to support with covering ratios.
- CIW will be contacted if a child needs emergency medical attention (this can be done via the CIW online portal under notifications).
- Medicines are stored in their original container, with the original label intact and clearly displayed – The name on the label must be that of the child who will be administered the medication. The date on the Medicine must also be within the guidelines stated and not expired.
- Medicines are stored at the correct temperature, temperatures checked, and records kept.
- Medicines are returned to parents/carers after the prescribed period of treatment.
- All medication is inaccessible to children at all times and kept in a clearly labelled box in the cupboard or fridge during Playgroup hours (immediate access is enabled as necessary).
- Medication that is found to be out-of-date is not administered.
- Written information about when the medication was last administered is obtained from the parent/carer.
- Medication is administered to a child only by a delegated and trained adult.
- The time and dosage of medicine given is recorded and witnessed by another designated adult/member of staff in the provision.
- The parent/carer is required to sign the record of administration of medication on the same day when they collect the child.
- Records relating to medication administered are kept in line with Bradley Playgroup's confidentiality policy and retained in line with regulatory and insurance company requirements.

Asthma policy and procedure

Asthma is a long-term condition that can cause a cough, wheezing and breathlessness. The severity of the symptoms varies from person to person. Asthma can be controlled well in most people most of the time. In the UK, 5.4 million people are currently receiving treatment for asthma. That is 1 in every 12 adults and 1 in every 11 children.

Asthma is caused by inflammation of the airways. This makes it difficult to breathe and causes wheezing and coughing. It may also make the chest feel tight.

(<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/Pages/Introduction.aspx>)

It is the policy of Bradley Playgroup to promote an effective partnership between all concerned to promote the safety, welfare and best interests of any child with asthma in our care.

We do this by:

- Encouraging and supporting children with asthma to participate fully in activities.
- Ensuring children have immediate access to their reliever inhalers.
- Providing guidance for staff on what to do if a child has an asthma attack and ensuring the child's welfare in the event of an emergency. This includes:
 - Access to appropriate asthma training for staff as needed.
 - Staff recognising when a child's asthma symptoms worsen.
- Ensuring that parents/carers of children who develop asthma after they have started at Bradley Playgroup are informed about this policy and given a copy.

When a child with asthma attends the setting we discuss their needs with their parents/carers.

This includes:

- Discussing the level or degree of the child's condition.
- Establishing how we can recognise when symptoms get worse – any triggers that the child is known to be sensitive to.
- Ensuring the child has immediate access to their reliever inhaler as prescribed, keeping it in an easily accessible place and making sure all relevant people - especially the child - know where to find it.
- Ensuring that written records are kept clearly detailing information of what medicine is to be taken, when and how often.
- Informing parents/carers that:
 - The inhaler must be prescribed for the child, labelled clearly with their full name.
 - It must not have passed its expiry date.
 - A record is kept each time a child takes their inhaler.
 - Medication left in the setting must be checked regularly and parents informed if and when replacements are needed.
- Asking parents/carers to bring a spare inhaler to be kept at our provision in case of an emergency.
- Keeping and using emergency contact details for next of kin but in the case of an emergency dial 999 (in line with our registration form).

- Making sure the person collecting the child is informed if the child has had to take their medicines and to sign the form (in line with our medication policy).
- Making sure that inhalers are always taken on our trips (in line with our outings policy).
- Parents/carers are also referred to our admissions and equality and inclusion policies and procedures.

This **Medication and Asthma** policy and procedure was passed for use in Bradley Playgroup

On: 22nd March 2023, 30th April 2021, 01/04/19, 24th April 2018,

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By: Alexzandra Newland

Position: Lead Supervisor

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