

04 Health procedures

04.5 Poorly Children

- If you have administered calpol to your child, they should not attend nursery for 24 hours from the time when the medicine was given. This is because calpol can mask an underlying concern of an illness.
- If a child appears unwell during the day, for example has a raised temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach then the setting manager calls the parents and asks permission to administer calpol. Parents/carers will then need to collect their child within one hour and will not be able to return until at least 24 hours, being that no further calpol is needed.
- If a child has a raised temperature, they are kept cool by removing top clothing sponging their heads with cool water and kept away from draughts.
- A child's temperature is taken and checked regularly, using Fever Scans or other means i.e. ear thermometer.
- If a baby's temperature does not go down, and is worryingly high, then calpol may be given after gaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions, particularly for babies under 2 years old. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- In an emergency an ambulance is called and the parents are informed.
- Parents are advised to seek medical advice before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a raised temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease.
- Where children have been prescribed antibiotics for an infection illness or complaint, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours.
- After diarrhoea or vomiting, parents are asked to keep their children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities such as sand and water play and self-serve snack will be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- The setting has information and excludable diseases and exclusion times.
- The setting manager notifies their line manager if there is an outbreak of an infection (affects more than 3-4 children) and keeps a record of the numbers and duration of each event.
- The setting manager has a list of notifiable diseases and contacts Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted in the event of an outbreak.
- If staff suspect a child who falls ill whilst in their carer is suffering from a serious disease that may have been contracted abroad such as Ebola, immediate medical assessment is required. The setting manager or deputy calls NHS111 and informs parents.

- If you have administered calpol to your child, they should not attend nursery for 24 hours from the time when they medicine was given. This is because calpol can mask an underlying concern of an illness.
- The setting will administer homeopathic remedies, such as teething gel or powders with permission from parents/carers.

Paracetamol based medicines (e.g. Calpol)

- The use of paracetamol-based medicine may not be agreed in all cases. A setting cannot take bottles of non-prescription medicine from parents to hold on a 'just in case' basis, unless there is an immediate reason for doing so. Setting do not normally keep such medicine on the premises and they are not allowed to 'prescribe'. However, given the risks to very young babies of high temperatures, insurers may allow minor infringement of the regulation as the risk of not administering may be greater. Ofsted is normally in agreement with this.
- In all cases, parents of children under two years must sign to say they agree to the setting administering paracetamol based medicine in the case of high temperature, on the bases they are on their way to collect. Such medicine should never be used to reduce temperature so that a child can stay in the care of the setting for a normal day.
- *Whilst the brand name Calpol is references, there are other products which are paracetamol or Ibuprofen based pain and fever relief, such as Nurofen, for children over 3 months*

HIV/AIDS procedure

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

- Single use vinyl gloves and aprons are worn when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with bloody, urine, faeces or vomit.
- Protective rubber gloves are used for cleaning/slucing clothing after changing.
- Soiled clothing is rinsed and bagged for parents to collect.
- Spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleared using mild disinfectant solution and mops; cloths used are disposed of with clinical waste.
- Tables and other furniture or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces or vomit are cleaned using a disinfectant.
- Baby mouthing toys are kept clean and plastic toys cleaned in sterilising solution regularly.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases parents may be asked to keep the child away from the setting until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, all parents are informed and asked to treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatment methods if they are found.

Further guidance

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

Medication Administration Record (Early Years Alliance 2019)

Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings (Public Health Agency)

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf