



Medication

With the exception of a few over the counter medicines, medication will only be given to a child by Baby Ducks staff if it has been prescribed by a medical practitioner and is appropriately dated.

Deciding whether to give medication

Requests to administer medication to a child will be made to the management and they will need to decide if we will be able to give it and to make sure that parents understand your policy on giving medication. The Early Years Foundation Stage does not specifically say we have to give medicine to children. In cases where we decide not to give medication, we will consider what other measures we would need to take when children are in pain, to continue to promote the good health of children.

If a parent or carer wants us to give their child medicine, we must get the parent's or carer's written permission and instructions showing the dose, how often it is given and so on. (If these instructions are from a doctor and exceed the dose recommended on the packaging we need the parent to confirm in writing their agreement to doing this.)

This applies to each and every medicine a parent wants us to give.

'Prescribe' and 'prescription'

We must take account of the guidance set out in the Statutory Framework. This states that 'medicines must not usually be administered unless they have been prescribed for that child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist'. When we use the word 'prescribe' we mean medicine that is recommended.

When we use the word 'prescription' we mean written instructions from a doctor or dentist. Most pharmacists cannot write prescriptions and can only prepare the medicine as instructed by a doctor or dentist. However, they can recommend (prescribe) over-the-counter medicines such as teething gels, when children are teething, or painkillers, when children have a temperature.

Homeopathic medicine must be accompanied by a letter from the homeopath detailing the child's name, the date of issue of medication, the dosage and instructions for administration. Contact details for the homeopath must also be provided.

Over-the-counter medication

The legal guidance allows us to give over-the-counter medication such as pain and fever relief or teething gel. However, we must get written permission beforehand from parents. And, we will follow the same recording procedures as those for prescribed medication. We only give medication when asked to do so by a parent and if there is an accepted health reason to do so. The Statutory Framework recommends that children under 16 should never be given medicines containing aspirin unless a doctor has prescribed that medicine for that child.

Records

A signed record of all medication administered will be made on the medicine form and witnessed by another member of staff. All medication will be stored appropriately in its original container and in a secure place that is inaccessible to children.

When a child attending the setting becomes unwell it is our usual practice to contact the parent/carer and discuss the situation.

Our staff are allowed to administer nappy cream if written permission is given in advance by the child's parents/carers. Forms for this purpose will be given to parents as part of their starter pack.

Our staff are allowed to administer Piriton if written permission is given in advance by the child's parents/carers.