Managing children who are sick,

infectious, or with allergies

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting. They must have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

6.2.b Managing Children Who Are Sick

Policy statement

GSC 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.

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 – staff 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.
- The child's temperature is taken using a forehead thermometer strip, kept in the first aid box.
- If the child's temperature does not go down and is worryingly high, then designated staff may give them Calpol or another similar analgesic, after first obtaining verbal consent from the parent where possible. This is to reduce the risk of febrile convulsions. Parents sign the medication record when they collect their child.
- In extreme cases of emergency, an ambulance is called, and the parent informed.
- Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; GSC 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, GSC ask parents to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.
- After diarrhoea, GSC ask parents keep children home for 48 hours following the last episode.
- Some activities, such as sand, water play and self-serve snacks where there is a risk of cross-contamination may be suspended for the duration of any outbreak.
- GSC are guided by a list of excludable diseases and current exclusion times. The full list is obtainable at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities and includes common childhood illnesses such as measles. –

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 GSC become aware, or are formally informed of the notifiable disease, our manager will inform Ofsted and contacts Public Health England and will act on any advice given.

HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis procedure

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

GSC staff will…

- Wear single-use vinyl gloves and aprons when changing children's nappies, pants and clothing that are soiled with blood, urine, faeces, or vomit.
- Bag soiled clothing for parents to take home for cleaning.
- Clear spills of blood, urine, faeces or vomit using mild disinfectant solution and mops; any cloths used are disposed of with the clinical waste.
- Clean any tables and other furniture, furnishings or toys affected by blood, urine, faeces, or vomit using a disinfectant.

Nits and head lice

- Nits and head lice are not an excludable condition; although in exceptional cases GSC may ask a parent to keep the child away until the infestation has cleared.
- On identifying cases of head lice, GSC will inform all parents and ask them to treat their child and all the family if they are found to have head lice.

Procedures for children with allergies

- When children start at the setting GSC ask their parents if their child suffers from any known allergies. This is recorded on the Registration Form as well as a separate file easily obtainable to staff.
- If a child has an allergy, GSC will complete a risk assessment form to detail the following:
  - The allergen (i.e. the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc).
  - The nature of the allergic reactions (e.g. anaphylactic shock reaction, including rash, reddening of skin, swelling, breathing problems etc).
  - What to do in case of allergic reactions, any medication used and how it is to be used (e.g. Epi-pen).
  - Control measures - such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen.
  - Review measures.
- This risk assessment form is kept in the child's personal file and a copy is displayed where staff can see it.
- A health care-plan will also be completed
- GSC try not to purchase any foods which may contain nuts.
- Parents are made aware that GSC do not want any nut or nut products brought into the setting. This will avoid the risk of cross contamination.

Insurance requirements for children with allergies and disabilities

- If necessary, GSC insurance will include children with any disability or allergy, but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions or requiring invasive treatments; written confirmation from our insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.
- At all times, we ensure that the administration of medication is compliant with the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Oral medication:
  - Asthma inhalers are now regarded as 'oral medication' by insurers and so documents do not need to be forwarded to our insurance provider. Oral medications must be prescribed by a GP or have manufacturer's instructions clearly written on them.
  - GSC must be provided with clear written instructions on how to administer such medication.
  - GSC adhere to all risk assessment procedures for the correct storage and administration of the medication.
  - GSC must have the parents or carers prior written consent. This consent must be kept on file. It is not necessary to forward copy documents to our insurance provider.
- Life-saving medication and invasive treatments:
  These include adrenaline injections (Epi-pens) for anaphylactic shock reactions (caused by allergies to nuts, eggs etc) or invasive treatments such as rectal administration of Diazepam (for epilepsy).
  - GSC must have:
    - a letter from the child's GP/consultant stating the child's condition and what medication if any is to be administered.
    - written consent from the parent or guardian allowing staff to administer medication; and
    - proof of training in the administration of such medication by the child's GP, a district nurse, children's nurse specialist or a community paediatric nurse.

Copies of all three documents relating to these children must first be sent to Preschool Insurance Department for appraisal. Written confirmation that the insurance has been extended will be issued by return.

Staff make sure that treatments such as: inhalers or EpiPen's are immediately accessible in an emergency.

- For children with specific special needs requiring assistance with tubes to help them with everyday living e.g. breathing apparatus, to take nourishment, colostomy bags etc.:
  GSC will request parent/carer to come into the setting to administer care. Full information concerning these children will be submitted to our insurance providers where GSC will await written confirmation that our insurance has been extended.

If GSC is unsure about any aspect, we will contact our Insurance Department on 020 7697 2585 or email membership@pre-school.org.uk/insert

This policy was adopted by	GSC
On	May 2021
Date to be reviewed	May 2022
Signed on behalf of the provider	Gaddesby School Community
Name of signatory	Linda Dunmore
Role of signatory	Manager