

Medicine & Sickness Policy

At Brook Green Nursery, the health, safety, and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. Our Medicine & Sickness Policy follows current guidance from the Health Protection Agency, the NHS, and the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). These procedures help us maintain a safe environment for all children, families, and staff.

Administering Medication

We only accept medication when it is essential for a child's health during the nursery day. To ensure safe and accurate administration, parents must complete a Medicine Authorisation Form each day that medication is required.

All medicines must:

- Be provided in their original container
- Be within the expiry date
- Include administration instructions in English
- Be clearly labelled with the child's full name (for prescribed medication)

Medication is stored securely and out of children's reach, either in the nursery office or in the kitchen fridge, depending on product requirements.

Homeopathic remedies will only be administered if they are prescribed by a **licensed homeopath** and accompanied by written instructions.

Antibiotics and Non-Permitted Medication

If a child is prescribed antibiotics, they must remain at home until they are well enough to return. Once they are back at nursery, we will continue administering the course as needed.

We do not administer:

- Medical suppositories
- Non-prescribed Aspirin

These restrictions ensure children's safety and comply with national guidance.

Fever and Temperature Management

If a child develops a temperature of 37.5°C or above, we may administer one dose of children's proprietary fever relief (e.g., Calpol), provided we have parental consent.

If written consent cannot be completed beforehand, an email authorisation is acceptable, but a Medicine Authorisation Form must be signed at collection.

Temperature checks are carried out using a digital thermometer, taking an average of three readings at one-minute intervals.

We keep an emergency supply of:

- Fever relief (e.g., Calpol syrup or sachets)
- Antihistamines (e.g., Piriton syrup)

These are used only when necessary and with parental consent.

When a Child Becomes Unwell

If a child becomes too unwell to remain at nursery, parents will be contacted and must arrange collection within two hours. This protects the wellbeing of the child and helps prevent the spread of illness.

If a child is sent home unwell, they must remain at home for at least 24 hours to recover fully. Children who appear well at home often struggle with the demands of a busy nursery day.

Parents must inform the nursery if:

- Their child has been unwell overnight
- Their child has received medication before arrival

This information helps us monitor symptoms and respond appropriately.

Creams and Sunscreen

Parents may supply nappy creams, provided the packaging is in English and clearly labelled with the child's full name.

Parents may also supply their own sunscreen. All sunscreen must:

- Be minimum SPF 30
- Be renewed annually

- Be clearly labelled with the child's full name
- Include product information in English

This ensures safe and consistent application during outdoor play.

Long-Term Medical Needs

For children who require long-term medication such as inhalers, EpiPens, or allergy treatments, the nursery manager will create a Long Term Medical Care Plan in consultation with parents and relevant medical professionals. This ensures that staff understand the child's needs and can respond confidently in an emergency.

Immunisations

We only admit children who have begun their recommended immunisation schedule as advised by the Department of Health. Parents must bring their child's red book after each vaccination so we can update our records.

Infectious and Notifiable Diseases

Any notifiable diseases will be reported to the local Health Protection Unit and Ofsted as required.

The nursery manager or deputy manager may refuse admission to any child showing signs of infectious illness. This decision may be made even if:

- There is no official exclusion period
- The exclusion period has passed
- A doctor has stated the child is not infectious

We consider the child's overall demeanour, comfort, and ability to participate in nursery activities when making this decision.

A list of exclusion periods for common childhood illnesses is available from the nursery office.