

CATERPILLARS PRE-SCHOOL (SUSSEX) LIMITED

**19. MANAGING CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES, SICKNESS OR INFECTIONS**

We provide care for healthy children and promote health through identifying allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance and through preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. This includes teaching the children about good hygiene. We ask parents to work with us to limit the spread of illness to other children and members of staff.

**Procedures for children with allergies**

When a child starts at the Pre-school we ask parents whether they suffer from any know allergy. This is recorded on the registration form. If a child has an allergy, a risk assessment is carried out to detail the following:

* the allergen (the substance, material or living creature the child is allergic to, such as nuts, eggs, bee stings, cats etc)
* the nature of the allergic reaction eg rash, anaphylactic shock, breathing difficulties
* what to do in case of an allergic reaction, any medication used and how to administer it, eg Epipen
* control measures, such as how the child can be prevented from contact with the allergen
* review

This form is kept on the child’s personal file and all staff are made aware which children have known allergies. A list of children’s allergies (relating to food) is displayed next to the snack area. Allergies non-food related are kept in the SENCO cabinet. All staff know where the list is displayed.

A consent form allowing staff to administer the necessary medication must be completed by the parents/guardians and kept in the child’s file. For life saving medication such as Epipens, written confirmation must be obtained from our insurers to extend our insurance.

**Procedure for children with sickness or infectious disease**

We ask parents to inform a member of staff if their child has an illness, so that we can display a sign to inform parents, staff and visitors that we have had a case of that infection or illness in pre-school. This allows other parents to be on the lookout for the symptoms in their child.

Children who are unwell with an infectious disease should NOT be at pre-school and they should NOT return until the risk of infection has passed.

Any child who is known to have suffered from sickness or diarrhoea in the previous 48 hours will not be allowed to attend pre-school.

Where there is a risk of an epidemic or pandemic in the community, we will at all times follow the advice of the Health Protection Agency, including closing the pre-school if necessary to prevent the spread of infection. If any child or adult at the pre-school contracts a notifiable disease, we will inform Ofsted and follow the advice given by the Health Protection Agency.

The guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings is displayed within the office area.

**Other Considerations**

Infectious Diseases – Parents should inform the pre-school if their child has been diagnosed with an infection like Measles, Chickenpox, a serious stomach complaint or a contagious infection. They MUST inform the pre-school if their child has had Rubella (German Measles) in case they may have been in contact with anyone in the early stages of pregnancy.

Head Lice – Although it is not official policy, we request that children with head lice do not attend pre-school until they have been successfully treated. The contagious nature of head lice means that it can rapidly spread among a group making it a far more difficult problem to eradicate than if it were isolated and treated in the initial stages. We ask parents to check their child’s heads regularly so that any outbreaks can be dealt with swiftly.

This policy was adopted by the Manager of Caterpillars Pre-school on 4th April, 2023

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Name of signatory: Catherine Clark Role of signatory: Manager