

Swiss Valley Childminding Sickness & Medication Policy

Last reviewed: 18.08.23

Signed: Aimee Eynon & Christine Eynon

Policies and procedures will be reviewed yearly and amended accordingly

Medication:

The aim of this policy is to safeguard children in respect of medication, and to ensure that children only receive the medication they need.

I will always promote the health of children in our care and take appropriate action when they are ill.

I can give both prescribed, non-prescribed medicines and creams.

I will only give medicines where there is a health need to do so.

If technical training or medical knowledge is required to give a particular prescription medicine then we will undertake training provided by a qualified healthcare professional specific to the child.

Parents must give prior written consent before we will give any medicine to their child.

This consent must include the child's name, exact dosage and times to be given, and common side-effects. Parents must also tell us when the last dose was given.

Parents must provide all medicines needed by their children. We cannot give any medicine your child has not taken before in case of adverse reaction.

Prescription medicines will not be given unless a doctor has prescribed it for the named child.

All medicines must be in the original container with the pharmacist's or manufacturer's label, along with the child's name and dosage instructions.

All medicines must have the information leaflet supplied with the medicine so that we can have an understanding of possible side-effects.

The name of the medicine must be clearly labelled on the bottle, and it must be within expiry date.

I will store all medicines in a dedicated cupboard, out of reach of children, unless they need to be kept in our fridge, for which we have a fridge lock.

I will keep written records of all medicines given, including the child's name, the name of the medicine, dosage, and the date and time given.

Any additional requirements of our public liability insurance will also be adhered to.

Sickness:

This policy has been devised to ensure that children who become unwell whilst at the setting are treated with sensitivity and respect. It is also to help us to protect other children from illness and the spread of infection. Swiss Valley Childminding is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the children in its care.

To this end, the setting:

- Excludes any child with an infectious illness. The child will be excluded for the minimum period advised by the local authority.
- Advises parent/carers of these minimum periods and updates them as necessary, has procedures for contacting parent/carers or nominated persons and for caring for the sick child while awaiting collection.
- Has procedure for informing all parents/careers and staff of the presence of an infectious illness, with special regard for expectant mothers.

As a provider of day care, I realise that parents cannot afford to take time off work for every day cold or minor illnesses which their child contracts. However, to bring a child to the setting when he/she is suffering from an infectious disease is not fair to the other children, to their parents or to our staff. This is a difficult balance to strike and we will never please everyone; childcare settings are criticised just as frequently for sending children home as they are failing to do so. My staff are trained professionals, but they are not medically qualified and they have to exercise judgements in what they consider to be in the interests of all the children. To help staff in exercising that judgements, we follow guidance from the Health Protection Agency and which is made available to all parents on enrolment and our website. The most frequent application of this policy is that children must not attend nursery for 48 hours after the last instance of sickness or diarrhoea. For more specific illnesses we follow the recommend exclusion guidelines, details of which are available on request. In applying this policy, our staff is following strict instructions. Please do not put them in a difficult position, however inconvenient it may be.