

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Setting the Standards for Learning, Development and Care for children from birth to five

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

Medicines

Providers must implement an effective policy on administering medicines. The policy must include effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs. Providers must keep written records of all medicines administered to children, and inform parents.

Providers must obtain prior written permission for each and every medicine from parents before any medication is given.

Statutory guidance to which providers should have regard

Providers should ensure that they have sufficient information about the medical condition of any child with long-term medical needs.

Providers should ask parents about the medicines that their child needs to take and provide details of any changes to the prescription or the support required. If the administration of prescription medicines requires technical/medical knowledge then individual training should be provided for staff from a qualified health professional. Training should be specific to the individual child concerned.

Medicines should not usually be administered unless they have been prescribed for that child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. Non-prescription medication e.g. pain and fever relief or teething gel may be administered, but only with the prior written consent of the parent and only when there is a health reason to do so. A child under 16 should never be given medicines containing aspirin unless it has been prescribed for that child by a doctor. It is for the provider to arrange who should administer medicines, either on a voluntary basis or as part of a contract of employment.

Medicines should be stored strictly in accordance with product instructions and in the original container in which dispensed. They should include prescriber's instructions for administration.

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