



Colyton Caterpillars Early Education

Illness, Infectious diseases, Allergies and Medicine Policy

This policy was agreed by trustees/staff:	
Date of last review:	January 2026
Date of next review:	July 2026
Reviewed by:	K.Clode

Illness

We provide care and education for healthy children. We will take measures to keep them healthy (as far as it is possible) by preventing cross infection of viruses and bacterial infections. We promote health through helping to identify allergies and preventing contact with the allergenic substance. Children and staff with allergies and intolerances are listed with a photograph on a poster on the kitchen door and all staff are made aware of these.

Children who are unwell should not be brought to nursery. If parents/carers bring children who are unwell to nursery, they will be asked to take them home again. As we are a mixed-aged setting, our priority is to keep all children safe and well. We therefore reserve the right to refuse entry for any child deemed unwell.

Parents/ carers who are unable to care for their own child when they are unwell must have adequate alternative arrangements in place.

Parents/ carers must notify staff if their child has been unwell at the weekend or in the night, and if they have been given any medicine such as Calpol/Nurofen prior to coming to nursery. If Calpol/Nurofen has been given, the child must be kept at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting. 48 hours should have passed without the need of Calpol to reduce a fever before a child can return to the setting.

Parents/carers must not send their child to Nursery if he/she is unwell, this includes children who have a heavy cough or cold.

Any child who has had vomiting and or diarrhoea must not return to Nursery until at least 48 hours have elapsed from the last bout of vomiting and or diarrhoea and they feeling well in themselves. If a child has diarrhoea or sickness at nursery, they will need to be collected immediately and not return for 48 hours from the last bout.

We can not distinguish between stomach bugs, intolerances, but children will be sent home regardless of the cause.

Vaccinations

After children have immunisations, they need to remain off for 24 hours.

Infectious diseases

We are required by Ofsted to notify them and the Health Protection Agency of any infectious diseases that a qualified person considers notifiable.

It is the duty of the parent/carer to advise the setting, should their child become infected with a notifiable disease. All parents/carers will be notified immediately of any outbreak that occurs to a child registered with the setting, whilst maintaining the confidentiality of all concerned.

The following diseases are currently considered notifiable - if your child becomes ill with any of the list below, you should contact the nursery at the earliest opportunity and refrain from sending your child to the pre-school until all risk is eliminated. These infectious include;

- More than 2 cases of cryptosporidiosis
- More than 2 cases of giardiasis
- More than 2 cases of hepatitis A
- More than 2 cases of scabies
- More than 2 cases of PVL-SA
- 2 cases within 4 weeks of meningitis
- Meningococcal
- More cases than usual of diarrhoea and vomiting
- COVID-19
- Tuberculosis
- Typhoid and paratyphoid fever
- Syphilis
- Invasive group A strep
- Norovirus
- Chicken pox and scarlet fever in the setting at the same time
- Measles

Children without vaccination

The policy for children who haven't had immunisations is that we do not exclude them from attending the setting but would advise parents that they may be asked to keep children away from the setting during outbreaks that their children may be vulnerable to.

Medicines

- Medicines should only be bought into the setting where it is important to a child's health.
- Our setting can only administer medicines prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or a pharmacy prescriber, or where a child may need paracetamol suspensions / creams at times of teething, when a signed non – prescribed form is filled out.
- Medicines need to be provided in the original container or tube and named.
- The supply, possession and administration of some medicines are controlled by the misuse of drugs act and its associated regulations. Some may be prescribed as medicines for the use of children. A member of staff with first aid training may administer a controlled drug to a child to whom it is prescribed (These will be kept in

the locked first aid cabinet unless they need to be kept in a fridge).

- Written permission is required for the administration of medicines within the setting. Two forms are available, prescribed and non-prescribed, medicines cannot be administered if one of the relevant forms are not signed by a parent/carer.
- When a previous non-prescribed medicine has been available with signed consent, and parents have asked for the medicine to be kept in a lock first aid cabinet in the setting for future use, and some time has passed between last administer and the need for administer, telephone permission will be sought. Name, date, time and dosage will be recorded on the permission slip and signed immediately on collection of the child.
- All prescribed medicines, i.e. inhalers, creams, anti-histamines are checked monthly for expiry dates
- If a child refuses to take the medicine, a note will be made in the records and parent/carer will be contacted immediately
- Information on medicine will be checked: Name of child, Name of medicine, Dose, Method of administration, Time and frequency of administration, any side effects and expiry date.
- All medication needed quickly should not be lock away but kept in a place to access in emergencies. Asthma inhalers are kept in an individual named bag at side of first aid cabinet for ease of access.
- First aid kit is checked monthly by first aiders
- For children with a long-term medical condition a health care plan will be completed with parent/carer and displayed by the 1st aid cabinet.
- On educational visits our setting will encourage children with medical needs to participate fully. This may conclude specific risk assessments for these children.
- On administering medicines parents will need to complete and sign the record of medicine administered to individual child, a record will be kept of what staff have administered medicine.
- Training will be given to staff on administering medicines where appropriate, i.e. Creon's, Epi-pens etc.

Links to Health and Safety at Work Act 1974/92, Statutory EYFS Standards

At all times, the setting will refer to Managing Medicines in schools and EY settings for advice and EYFS standards

Allergies and allergic reactions

At Colyton Caterpillars we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our aims are to ensure allergic reactions are minimized or, where possible, prevented and that staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

Our procedures

- Our staff are made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include

a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis.

- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on child's registration form. This information is listed on our allergy poster and all staff are made aware.
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy is prepared in an area where there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts.
- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. Where deemed appropriate staff will sit with children who have allergies and where age/stage appropriate staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks.
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a first-aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment, if appropriate. We will inform parents and record the information in the incident book and on the allergy register.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.

Where there is a need for immediate medical attention, the nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication, and the child's comforter.
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children.
- Inform a member of the management team immediately.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.