

EMBSAY children's CENTRE



Our Illness and Medicine Policy.

Whilst we acknowledge the disruption that unexpectedly ill children can cause to child-care arrangements, on no account may ill children be admitted to the Centre. This rule is not only to prevent the spread of illness but also because in our experience, children need their own home environment if they are not feeling well. If a child becomes ill whilst at the Centre, parents or registered carers will be contacted immediately and asked to take the child home. Please note we cannot accept a child if he or she has had paracetamol (e.g. Calpol) or ibuprofen because they are 'off colour' or because they have had a temperature. This is very important as young children can deteriorate very quickly and without warning in these circumstances. Rapid changes in temperature can lead to febrile fits.

We operate an exclusion system as directed by the Department of Health for infectious diseases. The up to date exclusion periods are available on their website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-control-in-schools-poster> or by asking in the Centre.

Wherever practicable, parents should accept that the administration of medicine is their responsibility. We recognise this is not always practical if a child requires long term medication or antibiotics that need to be administered for a period after the child is fit enough to return to the Centre. Paracetamol (Calpol etc.) will not be administered except as an emergency measure in special cases on written request from a doctor. Parental consent is always obtained before administering paracetamol in such circumstances and the child **must** go home at the earliest opportunity after administration.

The Centre will administer other emergency treatment if it is deemed necessary for individual children, for example children who may be at risk from anaphylactic shock. In these cases treatment will be administered by a trained first-aider who has also received additional training from the area health authority specific for that child. Full written instructions for such children are kept with the medication in the medicine cupboards. The Centre does not receive child-specific training for the administration of asthma treatments, but medication for such children is also kept in the medicine cupboards and their names are included on the emergency treatment lists in the First Aid cupboards.

On no account, irrespective of age, are children permitted to have tablets or medicine in their possession. These include cough sweets, inhalers etc. If staff are likely to be required to give or supervise taking of medicines then written instructions must be supplied with the medicine and handed to a senior member of staff. All medicines must be clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage.