

Q: Health- Medicines - Childminders

What do I need to know?

- Legal Framework – [The Human Medicines Regulations 2012](#)
- [Early years foundation stage statutory framework for childminders](#) page 27, paragraphs 3.58-3.61

Health - Medicines (page 33-34 of audit)	Things to consider and discuss:
Do you ensure you promote the good health, including oral health, of children attending the setting?	• How do you know you provide well balanced and nutritious meals for children of all ages? Is fresh drinking water available at all times? • How do you promote oral health in many different ways? • What opportunities do children have which help them to learn about good health, oral hygiene etc? • How do you promote good hygiene (including the handling of animals) Is this information included with your policies and procedures? • How do you encourage children to be healthy and physically active?
Do you ensure you have clear procedures, discussed with parents and, or carers, for responding to children who are ill or infectious? Do you ensure you take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill?	• How do you share information with parents and, or carers about how you will respond to children who are ill or infectious? • What procedures are in place for contacting parents in the event of illness or infection? Are contact details kept up to date? • How do you ensure all staff know what to do if they are responding to children who are ill or infectious? • How do you prevent the spread of infection (include procedures for excluding infectious children and, or staff)? Are staff aware of the many ways in which infections can spread? • How do you ensure all staff (especially pregnant staff) are know how to protect themselves if they come into contact with children who are ill or infectious? • How do you protect anyone who is vulnerable and at particular risk of infection? • Do you have a policy in place which outlines procedures for children who are or have been ill or recovering from an injury? How effective is this? • How do you ensure that all staff (and children) know what information to give to the emergency services in the event of an emergency?

Health - Medicines (page 33-34 of audit)	Things to consider and discuss:
<i>Guidance on health protection in schools and other childcare facilities which sets out when and for how long children need to be excluded from settings, when treatment and, or medication is required and where to get further advice can be found at Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings</i>	• Have you accessed and read this guidance document? Are there any actions to implement from this? • Is the 'Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings' information on display or easily accessible for all staff? How do you know staff adhere and follow this guidance? • Is this document and information shared with parents and, or carers? How? • How do you know staff are aware of and know where to find additional information on notifiable diseases? • How and when do you check the immunisation status of both children and all staff? • Do you know when and how you must contact Ofsted or the childminding agency with which you are registered and, or local Health Protection Agency of notifiable diseases where applicable.
Do you ensure you have and implement a policy, and procedures, for administering medicines? Do you ensure your policy includes systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medicines, and for keeping this information up to date?	• Do you know what is classed as a medicine? How can you find out? • How do you ensure correct dosages (amount and frequency) of medicine are administered? Is this checked and how is this done? • Where do you store medicines to ensure children's safety? • What records are kept identifying which medicines (prescribed and non- prescribed) - have been administered to whom, by whom and when? - Have been administered and the reasoning why? - how are parents and, or carers are informed? • How do you ensure records on the administration of medicines are kept up to date? • How do you make all staff (including temporary staff) and visitors aware that they need to safely secure items out of the reach of children (e.g. Visitors may have medicines in handbags which are accessible to children)? • Do you need any health care plans for children in your care? Are you aware of what the health care plan should contain and who should be involved in drawing it up? How often is this reviewed?

Health - Medicines (page 33-34 of audit)	Things to consider and discuss:
Do you ensure training is provided for you and any assistants where the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge?	• How do you ensure that training for the administration of medicine has taken place before a child with a medical condition starts your provision? • How would you manage the administration of any medication requiring two members of staff to be present? • How do you make yourself and any assistants aware of any children who have allergies?
Do you ensure prescription medicines are not administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse, or pharmacist (medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor)?	• How do you know any assistants know and understand who can prescribe medication? • What procedures do you have in place to check medicines have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, nurse, or pharmacist? • How do you make parents and, or carers aware of your policies and procedures?
Do you ensure medicine's (both prescription and non-prescription) are only administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and, or carer?	• How do you obtain written permission from parents and, or carers prior to administering medication? What information must parents provide? What happens if they do not provide all the required information? • Have you considered what you will do if you haven't received written permission from a parent and, or carer of a child requiring medicine to be administered? • How will you respond if a parent calls you and asks for medicine to be administered?
<i>Non-prescription medicines can include those that can be purchased from pharmacies (including some over the counter medicines which can only be purchased from a pharmacy), health shops and supermarkets.</i> See also BMA advice: Prescribing over-the-counter medicines in nurseries and schools (bma.org.uk)	• Have you read and become familiar with this document? Are there any actions to implement from this? • How has it been used to impact on policies & procedures in the setting?
Do you ensure you keep a written record each time a medicine is administered to a child, and inform the child's parents and, or carers on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable?	• What records are kept identifying which medicines (prescribed and non- prescribed) - have been administered to whom, by whom and when? - Have been administered and the reason why? - how have parents and, or carers have been informed? • How would you know if a child has already received doses of medication (prescription or non-prescription) before they have arrived at your setting? • What would you do if you didn't inform a parent and, or carer upon on collection of their child that medicine had been administered?

Useful links and further help:

[Report a serious childcare incident](#)

[Health Protection in schools and other childcare facilities](#)

[Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school](#)

[How to wash your hands](#)

[PHE handwashing advice](#)

[Oral Health: get help to improve your practice GOV.UK](#)

[Derbyshire children's community nursing team](#)

[Early Years & Oral Health Derbyshire Community Health Services](#)

Email: DCHST.Oralhealth-promotionteam@nhs.net

[Derbyshire SchoolsNet - Early Years](#)

[Derbyshire Early Years Service - Eventbrite](#)

Email: CS.EYS@derbyshire.gov.uk