

Medication in School

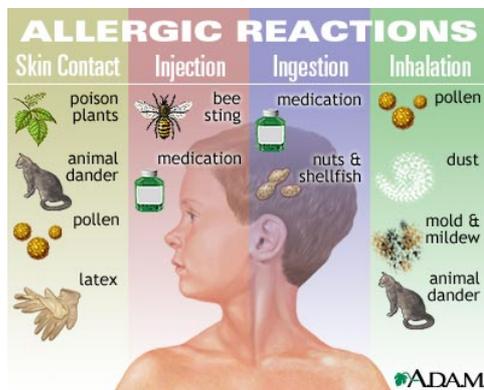
Schools have their own procedures for administering medicines.

You should try to avoid the need for taking medicines into school whenever possible ie if your child is on antibiotics three times per day they can take this at breakfast, tea and before bed.

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, you will need to discuss this with the school. As part of this procedure, you will be asked to complete an appropriate form.



Allergies



All children who have an allergy that requires emergency treatment (i.e. oral antihistamine or/and EpiPen) have an individual care plan to ensure school staff can respond appropriately to an allergic reaction.

You are sent a questionnaire to ensure we have all the necessary information about your child's allergy. School nurses then arrange and provide a training session in school to which you are invited. The care plan is reviewed and a training update is carried out in school on a yearly basis.

If your child has an EpiPen you will be asked to sign a BMBC form that provides indemnity for school staff.

Asthma

Children with asthma should be encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life.

Schools recognise that children may need access to their treatment (usually reliever inhaler) during the school day. If your child requires this treatment at school, it is important for you to discuss this with them. You also need to ensure your child knows how to use their inhaler properly. Your practice nurse or asthma clinic will be able to give you advice about this.

If your child's asthma is severe or difficult to control specialist asthma nurses from the hospital will arrange a care planning meeting in school where a written care plan is agreed.



Epilepsy



Children with Epilepsy should be encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life although, for some activities a risk assessment may be required to enable your child to undertake an activity.

All children with Epilepsy should have a written care plan in school. This should be undertaken by the Epilepsy Nurse Specialist in consultation with the family, and should include the Child's seizure type and the first aid treatment required.

Children who have been prescribed Rescue Medication for their seizures will also have a separate care plan in school provided by the Epilepsy Nurse Specialist who will also provide training in administration of rescue medication for the school staff.

Diabetes

Children with diabetes are encouraged to participate in all aspects of school life. More children are requiring lunch-time injections of insulin at school, as more frequent insulin injections improves a child's diabetes control.

If a child has diabetes or requires a lunch-time injection of insulin the children's diabetes team will meet with school staff to provide information and support. They will ensure that staff can recognise when a child with diabetes is not well and how to provide or summon emergency help. They will ensure the child's insulin is stored safely, and that the child has a designated room where they can give insulin without interruption. If a very young child requires an injection in school and if the parents are not available, every effort is made to make alternative arrangements.



A care plan to reflect the needs of the child will be made and copies kept in school.

References

Youel J (2005) *Supporting Children in School and Maintained Early Years Settings who have a Medical Need. Guidance Document.* Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Barnsley PCT (2006) *A guide to the management of allergies and anaphylaxis in a child.*