

Tip Sheets

Supporting Children with Medication Administration Needs

Using a formal process when administering medication to children in your care will minimize medication-related injuries and decrease liability risk factors to caregivers. Formal training by a licensed health care professional to teachers is highly recommended (CFOC).

General Medication Safety Tips

- Keep medication out of the reach of children.
- Keep childproof caps on medicine containers.
- Remember, young children pay attention to adults who take medication. Sometimes a young child may tell you they have a headache or stomachache in order to try medications.
- Never say a medication is “candy.”

Dosing Safety

- Give the correct dose. Measure it exactly.
- Use a medication syringe or dropper to measure the correct amount (more reliable than a measuring spoon). If possible, use the syringe or dropper that came with product. *Kitchen teaspoons & tablespoons are not accurate and should not be used.*
- Give the medicine at the prescribed times. If you forget, contact the parent for instructions.

Medication and Food

- Avoid mixing medication with food or drink as it might interfere with the medication’s effectiveness and requires that ALL food/liquid be taken to assure all medication is ingested. A child may be given something to drink

Follow the 7 Rights of Safe Medication Administration

- Right child
- Right drug
- Right dose
- Right time
- Right route
- Right reason
- Right documentation

immediately after taking the medication to help with any unpleasant tastes.

Additional Tips and Questions for Caregivers

Caregivers and teachers need to know:

- The name of- and reason for the medication.
- Who prescribed the medication and when.
- The known reactions or side effects that may occur if the child has a negative reaction.
- A medication record/log with the dates and times the medication was administered.

Additional Resources

Healthychildren.org

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/medication-safety>

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Childcare and Early Care

<https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.6.3.1>

For more information, visit

<http://www.inclusivechildcare.org/>.

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