



Hambledon Youth Hut  
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## **6.7 Temperature including use of Calpol or similar paracetamol medication**

(also refer to 6.2 Managing children who are sick, infectious, or with allergies (Including reporting notifiable diseases))

### **Policy statement**

At Hambledon Preschool, children's temperatures are not routinely checked. Our practitioners form strong relationships with the children in their care and get to know what 'normal behaviour' for each child is. If a child displays out of character behaviour, such as not eating, lethargy, unusual crying, clinginess, feel warm and look flushed or develop a rash, further investigation will be carried out. These symptoms among others often lead to the temperature being checked.

An average normal temperature is 36.4 and can range up to 37.4.

37.5 and above is deemed a high temperature and the child will be monitored closely. Our practitioners knowledge of the child will determine how they respond to each individual's needs taking into consideration the environmental factors including the time of year, weather/temperature/if the heating is on, what clothing the children are wearing, if they have just woken from a sleep and a blanket had been used, etc. They will also check for the presence of other symptoms, sweaty/clammy skin, rash, refusal to eat or drink, or dehydration (dry nappies, no tears when crying).

- For temperatures up to 37.7 degrees, the child can remain at Hambledon Preschool, if they seem well enough to do so. Calpol (or similar paracetamol medication) will not be given as this could mask a temperature linked to COVID-19 or other illnesses. Fluids will be offered, clothing may be loosened or removed, ventilation will be provided. The temperature will be closely monitored.
- For temperatures above 38 degrees, Calpol (or similar paracetamol medication) will be administered with the verbal consent of the parent with agreement that they will be collected. The parents will be contacted, and prompt collection will be expected. A Calpol/paracetamol medication sheet will need to be fully completed by staff and parent.

- Parents must inform practitioners if their child has been given Calpol (or similar paracetamol medication) prior to arriving to pre-school. They must say why it has been administered, when and with what dose. They must ensure that their child is well enough to attend pre-school. The manager or senior member of staff must be informed.
- Calpol (or similar paracetamol medication) will not be given to any child, at the request of the parent, unless it has been prescribed by a Dr for a more longer-term condition. And then, only after individual discussion with the parent and Manager or senior staff. A medication form will need to be fully completed by parent and staff.

### **When we will seek emergency medical advice and call 999:**

If a child has a high temperature and any of the following:

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it
- is bothered by light
- has a fit (febrile seizure) for the first time (they cannot stop shaking)
- has unusually cold hands and feet
- has pale, blotchy, blue or grey skin
- has a weak, high-pitched cry that's not like their normal cry
- is drowsy and hard to wake
- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- finds it hard to breathe and sucks their stomach in under their ribs
- has a soft spot on their head that curves outwards (bulging fontanelle)
- is not responding like they normally do, or is not interested in feeding or normal activities

### **Further guidance**

- Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings (DfES 2005)
- EYFS Statutory Guidance 2022

### **Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (2020)
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions: links to other useful resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-with-medical-conditions-links-to-other-useful-resources)2023