GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Drugs and Adult Medication Policy

Purpose

Children must be cared for by adults who are alert and able to meet their needs safely. This policy covers Gemma, employed and volunteer assistants, household members and visitors. Children's medicines are managed under our separate medication procedures.

Alcohol and drugs

Illegal drugs must not be brought into or used at the setting. Alcohol must not be consumed while childcare is being provided. No childminder or assistant may care for children while under the influence of alcohol or another substance that could affect their ability to do so safely. Alcohol and other potentially harmful substances are stored securely away from children.

Smoking is not allowed in or on the premises when children are present or about to be present. Practitioners must not vape or use e-cigarettes when children are present or about to be present. Visitors and household members must follow the setting's smoke and vape free arrangements.

Prescription and non prescription medicines

Adults must consider whether any medicine, including over-the-counter remedies, could affect alertness, judgement, coordination or their ability to care for children. They must follow prescribing advice and instructions and seek medical advice where a medicine may affect their ability to provide care.

Where this concern applies, Gemma or an assistant may work directly with children only when medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to

care for children properly. An assistant must tell Gemma promptly about any effect or relevant change. Gemma seeks appropriate cover or suspends care if safe care cannot be provided.

We assess practical needs and reasonable adjustments without treating the use of prescribed medicine as evidence of unsuitability. Relevant suitability changes and significant events are reported to tiney in accordance with EYFS and agency requirements. Health information is handled confidentially.

Safe storage and use

All medication on the premises, including adult and visitor medication, must be secure and out of children's reach at all times. It must not be left in accessible bags, coats, drawers, vehicles used by children or on work surfaces. Medicines are kept in their original packaging with identifying labels where supplied.

Storage follows the medicine's instructions, using a locked cupboard or secure container where appropriate, including secure refrigeration if required. Emergency medicines must remain promptly accessible to the adult who needs them while inaccessible to children.

Adults take medication in a way that prevents children accessing tablets, liquids, packaging or equipment. Safe supervision is maintained throughout. Sharps and unwanted medicines are disposed of safely using appropriate pharmacy or clinical waste arrangements.

If an adult appears impaired

An adult who cannot provide safe care must stop caring for children immediately. Gemma arranges safe supervision by suitable adults within permitted ratios, or contacts parents to collect if safe cover is unavailable. A visitor presenting a risk is kept away from children and asked to leave when this can be managed safely.

We do not leave children unsupervised to remove an adult. If Gemma herself is affected, emergency arrangements are activated and parents contacted. We call emergency services where necessary and follow safeguarding procedures if a child may be at risk. Collection concerns are managed under the collection policy.

Accidental exposure or suspected poisoning

If a child may have swallowed, touched or breathed in something harmful, we call 999 and follow emergency advice. If unsure whether an exposure is harmful, we seek immediate advice from NHS 111. We do not wait for symptoms.

We give appropriate first aid, maintain supervision of the other children and contact parents promptly. We do not induce vomiting or give food or drink unless instructed by a healthcare professional. Packaging and information about the substance are kept available for clinicians where safe.

Recording and reporting

Incidents, first aid, medical advice relevant to safe working and actions taken are recorded securely. Serious incidents and safeguarding concerns are reported through the appropriate emergency, social care and tiney routes within applicable timescales. Contacting tiney must not delay urgent medical help or a safeguarding referral.

Gemma ensures assistants understand this policy at induction and through ongoing support. It is reviewed annually and sooner after an incident or change in guidance. References: EYFS childminder framework effective September 2026, staff medication and substances; NHS Poisoning guidance, www.nhs.uk/conditions/poisoning/.

Policy owner: Gemma Bayley
Reviewed: November 2026
Next review due: November 2027