

## **Accidents and Injuries when Working with Children Policy and Procedures**

At Centro Infantil Menchú we aim to provide a safe and well supervised environment for children in our care.

There is a First Aid Box in each room where children are present. There is also a basic first aid kit to be taken on our trips to the park and on outings. These first aid boxes are refilled on a regular basis.

At least two members of the staff have received training in Paediatric First Aid, although the aim is that every member of the staff working directly with children obtain a First Aid certificate, and then renew it every three years.

Written records of accidents and injuries and first aid treatment given to a child whilst in our care are shown to parents at the end of the day. These written records are kept in the office cabinet for three years.

In the event of a serious accident or injury the staff will ensure that the child receives qualified medical attention as quickly as possible. Emergency Services (999 or 112) will be called for an ambulance. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible.

If a child is taken to hospital before parents arrive, a member of the staff will accompany the child in the ambulance and stay with the child until parents arrive.

Ofsted and the Health and Safety Executive will be informed of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, any child while in our care, and the action taken.

### **First Aid Responses in Accidents and Emergencies**

#### **Anaphylaxis**

Anaphylaxis (or anaphylactic shock) is a severe allergic reaction that can occur after an insect sting or after a child eats certain food, for example. The reaction can be very fast, happening within seconds or minutes of contact with the thing the child is allergic to.

During anaphylactic shock the child may find it difficult to breathe and their tongue and throat may also swell, obstructing the airway.

If we suspect a child is experiencing anaphylactic shock we will call 999 or 112 straight away and tell them 'ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK'.

If the child carries medication, we will administer it following advice from emergency services. We will make sure the child is comfortable while waiting for the ambulance. If

they are conscious, sitting upright is normally the best position for them.

### **Burns and scalds**

Cool the burn as quickly as possible with cold running water for a minimum of 10 minutes or until the pain is relieved.

Seek medical help if necessary.

Keep the child warm using a blanket or layers of clothing (avoiding the injured area) to prevent hypothermia. This is a risk if we are cooling a large burnt area, especially in children.

Cover the burn with clean, non-fluffy material to protect it from infection (it could be a clean sheet or a plastic bag or kitchen film).

Never put creams, lotions or sprays on a burn or scald.

### **Bleeding**

If a child has severe bleeding, the main aim is to prevent further loss and minimise the effects of shock.

Call an ambulance as soon as possible.

Press firmly on the wound to stop the bleeding using a clean pad.

Keep the injured part raised to decrease the flow of blood, and continue to press on the wound for 10 minutes.

Use a dressing to bandage the wound firmly.

If there is an embedded object on the wound, press firmly on either side of the object and build up padding around it before bandaging to avoid putting pressure on the object itself.

### **Shock**

The definition of shock is 'a lack of oxygen to the tissues of the body, usually caused by a fall in blood volume or blood pressure'.

Severe bleeding can result in shock, which can kill. If the child has lost a large quantity of blood this can cause a reduction in blood supply to the brain (children can't afford to lose as much blood as adults).

Some signs of shock are:

Pale clammy skin (with blue or grey tinges if it's severe).

Dizziness or passing out (especially if they try to stand or sit up).

A fast, weak pulse.

Rapid shallow breathing.

If a large amount of blood has been lost, you can help the flow of blood to the brain by

laying the child down and raising the legs. Call an ambulance.

### **Cuts and grazes**

Young children are particularly prone to getting cuts and grazes as they often trip up and fall over things, or when playing and/ or running.

Most cuts and grazes are not serious, but should be checked for signs of infection for the first days after the cut has occurred.

Clean the area with water and cover with a plaster.

### **Choking**

If the airway is only partly blocked, the child will be able to speak, cough and breathe.

Encourage the child to continue coughing to remove the object.

If the obstruction is severe, give five sharp blows between the shoulder blades with the palm of your hand. Check the mouth and remove any object.

If this procedure does not clear the obstruction, give abdominal thrusts.

Stand behind the child, place a fist against the upper abdomen below the rib cage, place your other hand on top, then pull sharply inwards and upwards.

Repeat this up to five times, if the obstruction does not clear, call an ambulance.

Any child who has been given abdominal thrusts must be seen by a doctor.

### **Domestic voltage current**

Caused by contact with domestic voltage electricity, this can cause serious burns, injuries or even death.

Ensure the contact with the electricity is broken before you touch the child. Turn off the power at the mains if possible, or unplug the appliance. Do not touch anything metal or that is wet.

Once you have safely disconnected the power, check Airway and Breathing.

If the child is breathing effectively, treat any burns or injuries.

Take the child to hospital for a check up (even if they have apparently recovered).

Call 999/112 for emergency help if the child has been unconscious or has electrical burns.

### **Fractures**

The classic signs of a fracture are pain, swelling and deformity.

If you suspect a broken bone, keep the injury still and the child warm and call an ambulance.

A support sling is often used for supporting lower arm injuries, such as a fractured or sprained wrist.

### **Poisoning**

A poison can be described as any substance (solid, liquid or gas) that causes damage when it enters the body in sufficient quantity.

Call an ambulance and find out what the child has taken. Keep samples of any vomit for hospital analysis.

### **Head injuries**

Any head injury is potentially a very serious condition. Injuries to the head often lead to unconsciousness, which in turns put the airway at risk. Permanent damage of the brain may result from a head injury.

**Concussion:** it's caused by 'shaking' the brain, causing widespread disruption to its normal functioning.

**Compression:** caused by bleeding or swelling within the skull.

A blow to the head which is large enough to cause a head injury can also cause a spinal injury, so treat the child with care.

Call an ambulance for help and monitor and record breathing, pulse and levels of consciousness.

Not leave the child alone for the next 24 hours, see medical advice.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

**Approved by the management committee on: 9 June 2021**

**Signed on behalf of the Nursery: Yris Goodspeed**

**Date to be reviewed: 30 August 2024**