

Procedures for Children with Epilepsy

There are around 10,000 children with epilepsy aged five years and under in the UK. If a child has epilepsy, it means they have a tendency to have seizures. A seizure is caused by a sudden burst of excess electrical activity in the brain, causing a temporary disruption in the normal message passing between brain cells. This disruption results in the brain's messages becoming halted or mixed up. The brain is responsible for all the functions of the body, so what a child experiences during a seizure will depend on where in the brain the epileptic activity begins and how widely and rapidly it spreads. For this reason, there are many different types of seizure and each child will experience epilepsy in a way that is unique to them.

Recognising seizures

There are several different kinds of seizures, and a child may experience more than one type. It is the responsibility of the Nursery Manager and Child's Key Person to establish which type the child suffers from upon registration or diagnosis.

Treatment

All children within the nursery that have epilepsy are required to have;

- Spare treatment to be stored at nursery, i.e. Midazolam. These should be in the original packaging with the chemist label attached. The labels should be dated and named. The Child's Key Person is responsible for ensuring that the medicine is within its expiry date. The treatment should then be stored in the child's room and all staff made fully aware.
- The child should have a relevant treatment plan, which states child's diagnosis, when the treatment is needed, any symptoms the child may display, dosage of treatment, actions following episode and any other specific related instructions. This must be signed by the child's health care professional and parents.

If a child in our care suffers from an epileptic fit or similar seizure, staff are to make a note of the time it started and how long the seizure lasted. An additional member of staff would be required to call 999, making additional notes emphasizing the severity of the situation, i.e. especially if this is the child's first epileptic seizure.

On all occasions, staff will call 999.

After an Ambulance has been called, staff dealing with the child would then contact the parents or guardians, advising them to meet us at the Chesterfield Royal Hospital if they are local, while the member of staff who administered the medication travels alongside the child, with their medication and treatment plan. Staff will stay with the child until parents arrive and the child has received medical treatment.

Follow up Care

The staff dealing with the episode will write up a full report detailing all aspects of the seizure including:

- Date and Time, including length of seizure.
- Location
- Type of Seizure
- Description of Episode, including child's symptoms.
- Treatment given
- Names and persons involved
- Signature from Management Team.

Staff Training

All staff will undertake Paediatric First aid Training upon employment to the setting, which will be updated 3 yearly. Training for practitioners that work closely with the child will make sure they feel equipped to support them with epilepsy. This could be either general epilepsy awareness to understand what epilepsy is, or the administration of specific medication for individual children.

As an Nursery that promotes Equal Opportunities we strive to meet the needs of all children and will not exclude any child due to their pre existing health care needs or medical condition that could arise during our care.

(February 2015, Sunnybank Nursery)