

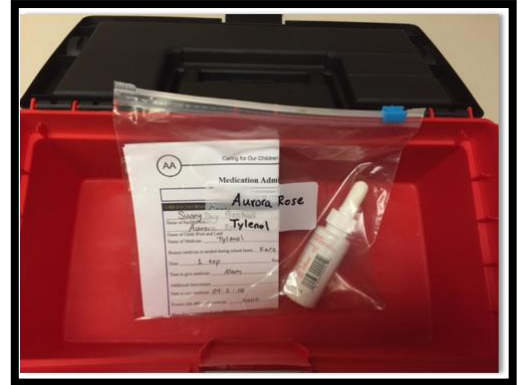


Medication Safety

Store Medications Safely and Properly

Store Medications

- Inaccessible to children
- Away from food or other chemicals
- In original container with child's name and instructions
- In child resistant packaging
- At proper temperature
- Upright to prevent spillage
- In a labeled, zip lock bag for each child's medication



- Medication storage should be locked
- Medication storage should be able to be cleaned and sanitized

Emergency Medications

- Emergency medications should always be onsite at child care programs
- Emergency medications need to be unlocked, readily available to supervising caregivers/teachers
- Emergency medication needs to be in a safe place out of reach of children



"Fanny" Hip Pack

A "fanny" hip pack or small cooler is best for outdoor play or field trips



Small Cooler

Medication Expiration and Communication with Parents

- Keep track of expiration dates assign this task to an adult who is responsible for receiving medication
- Place the expiration date on a calendar
- Allow enough time to notify parent/guardian and receive a replacement medication
- Have a method to document notification
- Parent/guardian may ask their pharmacy to fill 2 containers -one for home -one for child care



Expired Medications

- Return expired medication to the child's parent/guardian
- Directly hand the expired medication to the parent/guardian
- Parent/guardian should sign and date the medication record to verify return of the medication
- Do not put expired medication in the child's diaper bag or backpack
- Do not give to an older child to transport

Medication Disposal (In the event it is necessary for a child care program to dispose of medication)

- Follow specific manufacturer/pharmacy disposal instructions
- If disposal instructions are not available, remove medications from the original container and place in a sealable bag
 - Mix with an undesirable substance (like coffee grounds or cat litter) and throw into trash
 - Ensure that the trash is inaccessible to children
- Local pharmacy or law enforcement agency may have a medication disposal program

Safety Concerns

- Accidental ingestion of medication is the #1 cause of emergency room visits for adverse drug events for children less than five years of age. Post the Poison Control # 1-800-222-1222
- Follow specific medication storage instructions
- Strongly encourage families not to transport emergency medications home each night. The medication could be forgotten and not available when needed in a life threatening emergency
- Do not remove medications from storage until you are ready to administer the medication
- Do not leave medications unattended

Medication Storage Don'ts

- Don't store in diaper bag
- Don't store in child's back pack
- Don't store on top of fridge
- Don't store with food or other chemicals