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# Quality Care For Kids

## A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN and Deb Gimer, RN

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### Medication Safety

Medication safety is important for child care:

#### Store Medications:

- In a locked container/cabinet 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
- In a cabinet or storage container that is able to be cleaned and sanitized

#### Emergency Medications:

- Emergency medications should always be onsite at child care programs.
- Strongly encourage families not to transport emergency medications home each night.
- Emergency medications need to be unlocked, readily available to caregivers/teachers.

- Emergency medications need to be in a safe place out of reach of children.

#### Medication Expiration and Communication with Parents:

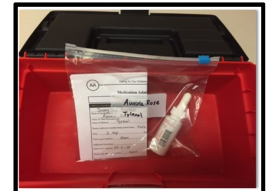
- Keep track of expiration dates. Write the expiration date on a calendar.
- Allow enough time to notify the parent/guardian when a replacement medication is needed. Document the notification.

#### Prescription Medication:

- Parents/guardians may ask their pharmacy to fill 2 medication containers - one for home -one for child care.

For more information on medication safety, storage and printable medication forms contact your child care nurse consultant or go to <https://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

Photos by ISU  
Extension and  
Outreach



Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

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### Medication Administration

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, at any one time up to 40% of US children receive medications with the most frequent falling into 4 categories: fever/pain reducers; asthma medications; behavioral medications; and antibiotics.

With increased medications being prescribed comes the risk for dosing errors. In two recent studies, medication dosing errors ranged from 41-84% with over 7,000 children seen in the emergency room for problems related to medication reactions and dosing errors.

Administering medication requires skill, knowledge and careful attention to detail. Staff who are newly hired; are assigned to "float" to multiple groups of children; are part-time; infrequently administer medications; or have not received adequate training **should not** be assigned the job duty of medication administration. Best practice is for the primary caregiver/teacher who is familiar with the child to administer the medication when needed. That caregiver/teacher should complete a medication administration training course that includes skill and competency assessment.