

Allergies and Allergic Reactions

EYFS: 3.45, 3.46, 3.48, 3.49

We are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction.

We aim to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or, where possible, prevented and that staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

Our procedures

- All staff are made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis
- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on child's registration form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration
- We share all information with all staff and keep an allergy information for children on our Family system.
- Where a child has a known allergy, the nursery manager will carry out a full Allergy Risk Assessment Procedure with the parent **prior to the child starting the nursery** and/or following notification of a known allergy and this assessment is shared with all staff. This involves displaying photos of the children along with their known allergies in the kitchen/nursery rooms, where applicable
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy is prepared in an area where there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts
- The manager, nursery cook and parents work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals on the current nursery menu
- Seating is monitored for children with allergies. Where deemed appropriate, staff will sit with children who have allergies and where age/stage appropriate staff will discuss food allergies with the children and the potential risks
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a paediatric first-aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment, where necessary. We will inform parents and record the information in the incident book and on the allergy register
- We may be able to give Piriton Syrup for children aged 12 months and over after making a call to the parent to confirm consent to administer the same. A suitable medicine given form will be completed and parents signature obtained at the time of collection of the child.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.

Allergy & Medical Alerts bands

While we do have the notices on the board with the child's picture for their allergies and other dietary requirements. This information is not always there for outings, picnics, or dining in the garden.

We have identified the use of Alert Bands for children who have allergies and asthma and any other special food dietary requirements. These are Latex-free band and Nickel-free snaps and meet and exceed US and European safety standards. You can purchase a specific one like "nut allergy or gluten allergy" or a general one alerting to "allergies".

The visual bands helps in quick identification and alerts any staff (even if not from the particular room that the child attends) to the needs of the child. This is especially important when staff cover each other for lunch breaks to holidays and absences.

We do not recommend any supplier of these and you are free to make your choices among the various options on this. If your child has any allergy or medical conditions then parents are required to provide a suitable allergy/alert band for their children.

If a child has an allergy or medical condition or special dietary requirement (e.g. Vegetarian) then parents are requested that this be please provided for the child at the time of joining and at all times while at the nursery.

Food Information Regulations 2014

We incorporate additional procedures in line with the Food Information Regulations 2014 (FIR) including displaying our weekly menus on the Parent Information Board/website/online system identifying any of the 14 allergens that are used as ingredients in any of our dishes.

In the event of a serious allergic reaction and a child needing transporting children to hospital, the nursery manager/staff member will:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. Staff will not attempt to transport the sick child in their own vehicle
- Ensure someone contacts the parent(s) whilst waiting for the ambulance, and arrange to meet them at the hospital
- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child, taking with them any relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter
- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Remain calm at all times and continue to comfort and reassure the child experiencing an allergic reaction. Children who witness the incident may also be well affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the incident.

This policy is updated at least annually in consultation with staff and parents and/or after a serious incident.