



Allergy Policy

Statement of intent

We need to ensure that children with specific allergies are protected from contact with their allergens. All staff need to be fully aware of which children have allergies, and how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

Methods

Our aims are to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or, where possible, prevented:

- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on a child's Registration form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration. We will include a list of the 14 allergens in the Registration document and will display a copy on our Parent Information board.
- We share all information with all staff – who sign to say they have read and understood - and keep an allergy list on the cupboard door where it is readily accessible to view by staff.
- Where a child has a known allergy, either the Manager or the Key Person discusses this with the parent prior to the child starting the pre-school and shares this assessment with all staff.
- We have a “no nuts” policy at pre-school which is fully communicated to parents on a regular basis.
- If we do a cooking activity which includes an allergen (not including nuts, which are never used), we discuss this with the parents of the child. It may be acceptable for the child to do the activity, but not eat the item, or we may substitute an ingredient. This is decided case by case.
- Our 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.
- When it is a child's birthday, their parents generally bring cakes to share with the children. We ask children with allergies and intolerances to provide their own cakes which are stored in the freezer and defrosted when needed.
- Seating will be 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 and the potential risks
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a first-aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate first aid, where necessary. We will inform parents and record the information in the incident book and on the allergy register
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then we will ensure we discuss this with the parents and that we always have an in date EpiPen on site. If necessary we will ensure at least one member of staff is trained to be able to administer the treatment.

Transporting children to hospital procedures

The manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital. If parents are not contactable, we will contact their nominated emergency contacts.
- 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.

Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Child's Play Pre-School name of setting

Held on (date) 19/02/19

Signed on behalf of the Proprietor

Role of signatory

This policy was reviewed on 20/08/25 (date)

continue as necessary (date)