

# Seedling Nursery

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## FOOD ALLERGY POLICY & PROCEDURE

The nursery is committed to child safety and therefore has created this policy to reduce the risk of children having allergy related events while in its care.

### Statement of intent

- To reduce the likelihood of a child with a known food allergy displaying a severe reaction to a specific food while in nursery.
- To foster an understanding of and sense of responsibility for the specific needs of the individual members of the nursery community.
- To create an awareness of the action to take should any child display symptoms of a severe allergic reaction to food.

### Seedling will:

On entry to the nursery parents are required to inform the nursery of any known food allergies that their child has. Parents must also advise the nursery of the action that should be taken if their child develops the symptoms of an allergic reaction while in nursery. This information needs to be endorsed by a Doctor or Health Care professional, including an Action Plan. Information on the children with allergies are entered on a list from the enrolment form displayed in the nursery and in the kitchen. Parents of children with allergies will be given a copy of this policy.

Parents should update this information if an allergy is diagnosed at any stage in their child's education. Each child has their own named label that records any known food allergies.

### These will include details of action to be taken in the event of a reaction.

The nursery will provide training to enable staff to recognise the symptoms of an allergic reaction and to respond appropriately. All staff have been trained in the use of the EPIPEN should a child with a known food allergy go into anaphylaxis. All parents are advised to ensure that their child does not bring nuts or foods containing nuts into the nursery.

Parent's role: Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, on-going accurate and current medical information to the nursery. Parents should supply us with a doctor's or professional health carer's letter including an Allergy Action Plan confirming and detailing the nature of the allergy; including:

- \* The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- \* The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- \* What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- \* Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- \* If a child has an allergy requiring an EpiPen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, an Individual Care Plan must be completed and signed by the parents.
- \* It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the nursery with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled.
- \* In the case of life saving medication like EpiPens the child will not be allowed to attend without it. \*
- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- \* Parents should liaise with staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)



\*Parents should update the information on the allergy diagnosis as necessary.

#### Staff's role:

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

\* If a child's Enrolment Form states that they have an allergy requiring an Epipen then an Individual Health Care Plan is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions.

\*Upon determining that a child attending nursery has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of a child's needs.

\* All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.

\* All staff should know the procedures at breakfast, snack, lunch and tea time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.

\* Staff cannot guarantee that foods will not contain traces of nuts or other allergens.

\* All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.

\* Children are not permitted to share food.

\* As part of the staff training, Epipen use and storage has been discussed.

\* We may ask the parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.

\* Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.

\* Staff should liaise with parents about snacks and any food-related activities e.g. cooking.

\* **Each child has their own named place mat that records any known food allergies.**

#### Actions in the event of a child suffering a severe pre-existing allergic reaction:

\*We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents.

\*If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999.

\* Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.

\* If medication is available it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the administering medications guidelines in the Health & Safety Policy.

\* If parents have not arrived by the time an ambulance arrives, a member of staff will accompany the child to hospital.

\*Ensure another member of staff is in the same room as the person monitoring the child.

#### Actions in the event of a child suffering a previously unknown allergic reaction:

\*We will delegate someone to contact the child's parents.

\*Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.

\*Wash the child's body and remove their clothes.

\*Seek to keep the child awake.


\*Ensure another member of staff is in the same room as the person monitoring the child.

\*If there is no improvement after 20 minutes, contact parents again.

\*After the event, update the nursery allergy list.

#### **Role of other parents**

\* Any produce brought in by a parent ( e.g. birthday treats ) must contain a list of ingredients and must never contain nuts

This policy was last updated	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
January 2022		January 2023

