

ALLERGY POLICY

Allergies can be a serious health issue and we have clear legal requirements to meet under the Food Information for Consumers law- 13th December 2014. Staff will undertake training regarding allergies and the 14 named allergens that are found in food.

Once we receive an application form we will check for allergies and if the allergy is listed as serious we will discuss the extent of the allergy with the child's parents to ascertain whether we can effectively safe guard the child. Where conditions are severe the nursery environment may prove unsuitable for the child.

When a child has been admitted, parents should provide written information of the child's symptoms, any severe incidents and provide medicine (prescribed by the G.P.) to be given in the event of an allergic reaction. A letter of consent to administer medication in an emergency must be obtained and kept with the child's application form. Staff will notify the cook of all allergies and the ingredients contained in products must be checked to ensure that they are free of any ingredients which could affect the child. Alternative meals will be provided.

Dietary requirement sheets will be displayed in all rooms and in the kitchen. Children's photo, name and needs must be stated and if they have a severe allergy this must be clearly noted. If the child is part time and has extra days booked the cook must be notified prior to preparing lunch.

Products that are known to contain nuts are not used or allowed in the playrooms. Staff should also be aware that in extreme cases children can be affected through touch and smell therefore staff need to be extra vigilant if we have any children with severe allergies. Where children may require medication, staff will familiarise themselves with the required treatments and dosages so that they can be administered correctly.

Occasionally parents bring food into the nursery (e.g: cakes and biscuits) which they have made at home or bought for parties. These may only be given to children with no known allergies. Items brought into the nursery for use such as biscuit tins should be washed thoroughly to remove all traces of previous substances. In the event that a child accidentally consumes food which s/he is allergic to or has an allergic reaction, the following action must be taken:

Staff will assess the situation immediately and in the case of extreme reactions an ambulance will be called. The first aider will be assigned to the child until medical help arrives, and a list of food eaten by the child should accompany him/her along with the medicine form, application form and incident report. If medication is required the correct dosage should be administered immediately and a medicine form completed to accompany the child to the hospital along with all relevant paperwork. The child's parent or guardian must be telephoned at the first opportunity and informed of the situation.

Regular notes of the child's condition will be logged.

Please Note: Parents are expected to update us if a child's condition changes at any point, particularly during the re-introduction of previously banned foods.

