

## **Allergies Policy**

It is a legal obligation for the nursery to request information about each child's allergies. We request this as part of the admission process. This information is shared with all staff members in the nursery. This is necessary to ensure allergic reactions are minimised or where possible prevented and staff are fully aware of how to support a child who may be having an allergic reaction.

All staff will be 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. An allergy register will be kept on the kitchen notice board.

We aim for all meals that are consumed on the premises to be suitable for the children. Kitchen staff will regularly check the ingredients for allergens and if any item is found it will not be used in meals for the child. Allergens are usually marked in bold on the ingredients list on food packaging.

Employees who consume any food item containing the allergens of the children on the premises are required to wash their hands thoroughly after their break. Alcohol hand-sanitizer will be in the rooms at all times for frequent use to prevent cross-contamination. If a food item that contains the allergen is brought into the room, the staff member should make the senior in the room and/or manager aware of this to minimise any potential exposure.

Children with an allergy will be allocated a section in the fridge and freezer to minimise any possible cross contamination from unintentional breaches of this policy. Any staff member found to be repeatedly in breach of this policy will be subject to disciplinary in line with our disciplinary procedures.

Parents may bring in birthday cakes/ food of their own to share with the children, but it must be unopened in the original packaging so that staff members can check the ingredients for allergens. The nursery are unable to share cakes/foods that are homemade and without an ingredients list in order to prevent any potential reactions.

If a child has an allergic reaction to food a trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment, if appropriate. If specialist treatment is needed, e.g. an EpiPen, then all the staff in the room will receive appropriate training and at least one member of the management team will



be on site at any given time to ensure procedure is followed.

Any accidental incidents that occur will be fully investigated and the findings fed back to the parents.

**Emergency Procedure:**

- If the allergic reaction is severe a member of staff will summon an ambulance immediately. We will not attempt to transport the sick/injured employee in our own vehicles.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will contact the emergency contact and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- Each child with an allergy will have an Individual Healthcare Plan and this will be used to follow procedure, document administered medications and sent with the child to the hospital if an ambulance is required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' followed by a wavy line.