

Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

At Little Grange Nursery 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 or swelling eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth and/or tongue, swelling of the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis.
- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on Family and during the settling sessions and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration.
- We share all information with all staff via the Special Diets Requirement Form and Health Care Plans form in each room.
- Where a child has a known allergy, the nursery manager will carry out a full allergy risk assessment 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 may involve displaying photos of the children along with their known allergies in the kitchen or nursery rooms, where applicable
- Any medication individual to the child will be in the room where they are based in a named bag, with the medication, allergy health care plan and risk assessment.
- 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, gluten.
- The manager, Chartwells Independent 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, for smaller children they are able to be seated in a strapped low chair with a tray and, where appropriate, staff will discuss food allergies with the children and the potential risks.
- Flannels are to be used for smaller children to clean their hands and faces of any food and allergens after the meal. Older children should wash their hands and face in the bathroom.
- Any clothing with food on should be changed to reduce cross-contamination.
- Drinks bottles that are to remain in the room should be cleaned to ensure there is no food debris on them that could cause cross contamination. Where possible open cups should be used at mealtimes as these are washed after each meal.
- After any meal, tables and chairs should be cleaned with antibacterial cleaner to remove any food and allergens.

- The floor will be swept and cleaned with a spray mop containing antibacterial cleaner to remove any food and allergens.
- 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 on Family.
- 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.

In the event of a serious allergic reaction and a child needing transporting to hospital

The nursery manager or 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 parents 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 affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the incident
- Where a serious incident occurs and a child requires hospital treatment, Ofsted will be informed.

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

Reviewed by Anna Biddlestone

19th January 2024