Fishbourne Pre-School
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Fishbourne
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Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

At **Fishbourne Pre-School** 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. We ensure that:

- Children's food is prepared and provided in line with their individual needs, developmental stage and any agreed care or allergy plans
- Staff understand and consistently apply arrangements for managing allergies, food intolerances and dietary requirements.
- Medication such as Piriton and Calpol are kept at Pre-School and are only administered with parental consent.

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 eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth and/or tongue, swelling of the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis. Staff are trained in appropriate treatments for allergies and anaphylaxis, the differences between allergies and intolerances and that children can develop allergies at any time, especially during the introduction of solid foods
- Before a child is admitted to the setting we obtain information about special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and intolerances that the child has
- We have ongoing discussions with parents and, where appropriate, health professionals to develop allergy plans for managing any known allergies and intolerances. We ask parents to inform staff of any allergies or intolerances discovered after registration
- We share all information with all staff involved in the preparing and handling of food, including at mealtimes and snack times. All allergies and intolerances are displayed.
- Where a child has a known allergy, the Pre-school 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 where it can be clearly seen.
- 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.
- The manager and parents work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at Pre-School that may harm them. This may include managing cooking activities to ensure all ingredients are safe for all the children.

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- At lunchtime / breakfast and snack time we ensure staff are clear who is responsible for checking that the food being provided meets all the requirements for each child
- Seating is monitored for children with allergies. Staff will sit with the children at snack time and lunchtime and, where appropriate, staff will discuss food allergies with the children and the potential risks
- 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 in the accident/incident book.
- 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 be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.
- All staff are Paediatrics First aid trained with additional EpiPen refresher training.

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

The Pre-School 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
- 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 well 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.
- Staff will not use their own transport to transport the child. Parents will be informed and arrangements will be made.

- *In very exceptional circumstances, with parental permission a staff member and an escort will take the child to hospital, making sure the correct car seat is available.*
- *No staff will vape or smoke with the child in the car.*

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