

6.5 Managing Allergies

EYFS: The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements
3.45, 3.46, 3.48, 3.49

Policy Statement

At Hopes and Dreams Montessori Nursery we are aware that children can have allergies that may cause allergic reactions. We aim to ensure that 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.

Procedures

Allergy Awareness

- All staff at the nursery are paediatric first aid trained. This training covers how to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction, so they are able to respond in the event 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, tongue or neck, chest, wheezing or anaphylaxis.
- Paediatric first aid also touches on the use of auto-injection pen, often referred to as Epi-pens®
- Staff are made aware of the 14 allergens and posters are displayed around the nursery as reminders.
- Staff undergo Allergy Awareness training as part of their induction which is renewed every three years.

Children at the Nursery with Allergies

- Information will be passed on by parents from the 'Getting to Know your Child' questionnaire at the home visit regarding known allergic reactions and allergies that must be shared with all staff in the Nursery
- Parents will complete a full Medical Care Plan with the Nursery Management prior to the child starting at the Nursery. This information will then be shared with the staff in the child's classroom. The Medical Care Plan and the required medication** will be kept in a clearly labelled bag with the child's name within the child's classroom and taken to the garden and on any outings with the child. This Medical Care Plan is to be reviewed every six months and any medicine dates use by dates checked. The date of review is to be entered onto the Office SharePoint.
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy will be prepared separately in the kitchen by the Nursery Chef, reducing the chances of cross contamination. The equipment and utensils used will not come in contact with specific food types, e.g. dairy.
- Nursery Management, the Nursery Chef and parents will work together with Nursery Staff to ensure children with specific food allergies do not receive any food that may harm them. An adapted menu will be put together for a child if this is required.

All meals for children with dietary requirements will be clearly labelled with the child's name and listing all the ingredients in the meal

- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. A member of staff will sit with children who have allergies and, where age-/stage-appropriate, staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks.
- Each of the classrooms has a display with the photograph of any children who can not eat anything due to allergies, religious reasons etc., and this display is checked before giving food to any child. The display is reviewed and updated regularly, for example when a new child joins the classroom.
- In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.
- Please also see policy **6.4 Nutrition and Mealtimes**

** If the child requires an Epi-pen then parents must provide the nursery with two.

Ingredients

- The Nursery Chef checks the ingredients of the food that she purchases on order and also checks on delivery in case of any replacement products delivered.
- Special foods are ordered to replace those that contain any foods that children at the nursery are allergic to and are kept in sealed containers away from the rest of the food in the kitchen.
- When food leaves the kitchen, it is always labelled with allergens and food different to the main menu is kept separately and labelled accordingly.

Nuts

- The nursery operates a 'no nut policy' and staff are discouraged from eating/using nut-based products during the nursery day. If staff are unsure if they have come into contact with nut products in any way, they must wash their hands thoroughly before returning to the children. In line with this policy, we do not allow parents to bring in birthday cakes.
- Please do not allow your child to bring in any food as it may contain traces of nut.
- Please do not bring in boxes for junk modelling that contain nut e.g. Crunchy Nut Cornflakes.

Responding to an Allergic Reaction

- At the home visit, parents sign to give permission for staff to administer Piriton if a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, a plant, etc.
- If the reaction is very mild, then this will be enough. Parents will be informed, and a Piriton Administration Form is completed. Parents are advised to seek medical advice in this situation.
- If the reaction is severe and the child has an Epi-pen, then this must be administered following the instructions on the packet immediately by a senior member of staff and an ambulance will be called. If the reaction has not improved after five minutes, then the second Epi-pen must be administered.

Transporting children to hospital procedure

- With a severe allergic reaction, an ambulance is always called.
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) and arrange to meet them at the hospital.
- Get the relevant member of staff to complete the Accident/Incident/Observation form to be taken to the hospital with them.

- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany the child taking with them any other relevant information such as registration forms, relevant medication sheets, medication and the child's comforter.
- Ensure to keep the used Epi-pen(s) to hand to the ambulance crew. Please see Policy **6.1 Accidents and First Aid** for further information on handling needles.
- Re-deploy staff if necessary, to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for the remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together
- Remain calm at all times. Children who witness an incident may well be affected by it and may need lots of cuddles and reassurance. Staff may also require additional support following the accident.

Legal framework

- Food Information Regulations 2014
- Natasha' Law 2021

Reviewed: April 2022	Next review date: April 2023
Signed on behalf of the nursery: <i>L. Thorpe Zurawska</i>	