

Managing Children's Allergies

Purpose: To promote a framework for managing children/staff with specific allergies and to minimise the risk of a child/staff suffering an allergic reaction.

Scope: All staff, parents, students and children

Responsibility: Owner/Manager

Last Reviewed: 7th May 2024

This policy is concerned with a whole nursery approach to the health care and management of those members of the nursery suffering from specific allergies.

Yewlands Day Nursery is aware that children who attend may suffer from food, bee/ wasp sting, animal or nut allergies and we believe that all allergies should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way.

Yewlands Day Nursery's position is to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage self-responsibility, and plan for effective response to possible emergencies.

The Statutory Framework states that the provider must obtain information about any dietary requirements/allergy. As such parents are asked to provide details of allergies in the child's Enrolment Form, which is submitted before starting at the nursery.

The intent of this policy is to minimize the risk of any child suffering allergy-induced anaphylaxis or any reaction whilst in nursery.

The underlying principles of this policy include:

- The establishment of effective risk management practices to minimise the student, staff, parent and visitor exposure to known trigger foods and insects.
- Staff training to ensure effective emergency response to any allergic reaction situation.

Definitions

Allergy - A condition in which the body has an exaggerated response to a substance (e.g. food and drug) also known as hypersensitivity.

Allergen - A normally harmless substance that triggers an allergic reaction in the immune system of a susceptible person.

Anaphylaxis - Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

Epi-pen - Brand name for syringe style device containing the drug Adrenalin, -which is ready for immediate inter-muscular administration.

Minimized Risk Environment - An environment where risk management practices (E.g. Risk assessment forms) have minimised the risk of (allergen) exposure.

Health Care Plan- A detailed document outlining an individual student's condition treatment, and action plan for location of Epi-pen.

Procedures and Responsibilities for Allergy Management

General

- The involvement of parents and staff in establishing individual Health Care Plans.
- The establishment and maintenance of practices for effectively communicating a child's healthcare plans to all relevant staff.
- Staff training in anaphylaxis management, including awareness of triggers and first aid procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.
- Age-appropriate education of the children with severe food allergies.

Medical Information

- The nursery will seek updated information via medical form at the commencement of each calendar year or as and when the needs of children change.
- Furthermore, any change in a child's medical condition during the year must be reported to the nursery.
- For children with an allergic condition, the nursery requires parents / guardians to provide written advice , which explains the condition, defines the allergy triggers and any required medication. This is documented in a Health Care Plan (HCP).
- The Management will ensure that a Health care Plan is established and updated for each child with a known allergy. A HCP must be completed where a child has allergies before they commence their place at Yewlands Day Nursery.
- All staff are required to review and familiarise themselves with the medical information.
- All Health Care Plans must be stored in the relevant room, the medication file and the child's personal file.
- Where children with known allergies are participating in excursions, the risk assessments must include this information.

Medical Information (Epi-Pens)

Where Epi-Pens (Adrenalin) are required in the Health Care Plan:

- Parents/ guardians are responsible for the provision and timely replacement of the

EpiPens.

- The EpiPens are located securely in relevant locations approved by the manager.

Parent's role

Parents are responsible for providing, in writing, ongoing accurate and current medical information to the setting.

Parents must detail information relating to the allergy; including:

- The allergen (the substance the child is allergic to)
- The nature of the allergic reaction (from rash, breathing problems to anaphylactic shock)
- What to do in case of allergic reaction, including any medication to be used and how it is to be used.
- Control measures – such as how the child can be prevented from getting into contact with the allergen.
- If a child has an allergy requiring an epi-pen, or the risk assessment deems it necessary, a “healthcare plan” must be completed and signed by the parents.
- It is the responsibility of the Parent to provide the nursery with up to date medication/equipment clearly labelled in a suitable container.
- In the case of life saving medication like Epi-pens the child will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Parents are also required to provide up to date emergency contact information.
- Parents should liaise with Staff about appropriateness of snacks and any food-related activities (e.g. cooking)

Staff's role

Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the policy and to adhere to health & safety regulations regarding food and drink.

- If a child's Enrolment Form states that they have an allergy then a “healthcare plan” is needed. It must be in place before the child starts attending sessions. A risk assessment should be carried and any actions identified to be put in place. The Assessment should be stored with the child's healthcare plan.
- Upon determining that a child attending nursery has a severe allergy, a team meeting will be set up as soon as possible where all Staff concerned attend to update knowledge and awareness of child's needs.
- All Staff who come into contact with the child will be made aware of what treatment/medication is required by the Room Leader and where any medication is stored.
- All staff are to promote hand washing before and after eating.
- Snacks are monitored by Staff and are peanut, nut free and other allergens depending on the children attending. All staff should know the procedures at snack and lunch time to ensure the safety of children with allergies.

- All tables are cleaned with an approved solution.
- Children are not permitted to share food to ensure they do not come into contact with allergens
- As part of the Staff first aid course, Epi-pen use and storage has been discussed.
- We may ask the Parent for a list of food products and food derivatives the child must not come into contact with.
- Emergency medication should be easily accessible, especially at times of high risk.
- Staff should liaise with Parents about snacks and any food-related activities.

Actions

In the event of a child suffering an allergic reaction:

- We will delegate someone to contact the child's Parents.
- If a child becomes distressed or symptoms become more serious telephone 999
- Keep calm, make the child feel comfortable and give the child space.
- If medication is available it will be administered as per training and in conjunction with the "Medication Policy".
- In the case of an anaphylactic reaction a staff member must call 999 immediately stating that the child is having an 'anaphylactic shock' and take the steps of the ambulance call centre advisors. Another staff member should stay with the child.
- If Parents have not arrived by the time ambulance arrives, a member of Staff will accompany the child to hospital.

Role of Parents

- Parents/carers must ensure that no products are brought onto the premises that contain nuts. Children are prohibited from consuming food brought onto the premises unless the package has been unopened and the ingredients examined by a senior member of staff to ensure the contents are not harmful to any child in the nursery.

The following procedures and documentation in relation to this policy are:-

- National Food trust and Food policy in schools.
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Our Health & Safety and Risk Assessment Policy
- Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/1448-2005PDF-EN-02.pdf>

- The insurance will automatically include children with any disability or allergy but certain procedures must be strictly adhered to as set out below. For children suffering life threatening conditions, or requiring invasive treatments, written confirmation from the insurance provider must be obtained to extend the insurance.

