

Allergies and Allergic Reactions

At Townsend Montessori Nurseries Limited we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our aims are 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

- Our 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 or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis
- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on the child's registration form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration
- We share all information with all staff and keep allergy charts in all rooms or kitchen areas
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy is prepared with precaution to limit chances of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts. Red coloured cutlery will also be used
- The manager, lunchtime supervisors and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies does not receive food at nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific meals on the current nursery menu.
- It is recommended that children under 5 years old should not be given rice drinks. Children with allergies to milk will be provided with alternatives such as soya milk. If parents / carers wish for their child to have rice milk this will need to be put in writing by them and shared with the nursery.
- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. Staff will sit with children who have allergies to monitor meal times and where age/stage appropriate staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks.
- All allergy children must be supervised by staff at all times, failure to keep children safe will be seen as Gross mis-conduct and disciplinary action will be taken.
- Please refer to the 'Nutrition and Mealtimes Policy' for further information
- If a child has an allergic reaction to food, a bee or wasp sting, plant etc. a 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 an accident form.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then staff will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment

From 13 December 2014, we will incorporate additional procedures in line with the Food Information Regulations 2014 (FIR).

- We will display our weekly menus on the Parent Information Board and will identify when the 14 allergens and 3 additional allergens are used as ingredients in any of our dishes.
- Zebedees cater for the 14 main food allergens, 3 additional allergens and state: *'We do not intentionally use nuts in any of our dishes. However, products which are supplied to us may include a nut disclaimer (e.g. does not contain nuts, but nuts are used within a different part of the factory).'*
- Zebedees work closely with their suppliers so they are able to take reasonable steps to ensure that they are notified of any changes to ingredients in products supplied to us. As an extra precaution, Zebedees check all food labels when food is delivered to them.
- If a parent has any concerns over their child eating a product which carries a disclaimer, please make the nursery aware and we will contact Zebedees for further information.
- Townsend Montessori Nurseries follow the guidance for food allergies and follow the 14 main food allergens and 3 additional allergens alongside Zebedees. Therefore, we are unable to accommodate any additional allergies and we will ask parents to provide a packed lunch for their child.

Transporting children to hospital procedures

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, contact the parent(s) 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, the child's comforter and a mobile phone
- 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 senior management team immediately
- 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.

This policy was adopted on	Date for review
23.12.19	December 2020