



RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

Established 1979

Registered Charity No: 1026005

BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

2 Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2PT

Telephone 020 8883 4010

Allergies & Allergic Reactions Policy

Policy statement

At Rainbow Preschool, 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:

- Staff understand and consistently apply arrangements for managing allergies, food intolerances and dietary requirements

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 and keep an allergy register/ poster displayed on the hatch that opens into the kitchen from the main hall.
- Where a child has a known allergy, the preschool manager will carry out a full allergy risk assessment with the parent prior to the child starting at the preschool/ or following notification of a known allergy and this risk assessment is shared with staff. This may involve displaying photos or names of the children along with the known allergies on the hatch that opens into the kitchen from the main hall, where applicable.
- We do not prepare any food onsite; **children bring packed lunches**. We inform parents that **we have a 'No Nuts Policy'**. **Parents must not send in packed lunches/ snacks that contain nuts.**
- Our staff sit down with the children at lunch time and supervise to ensure that children do not share food

- 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 incident book and on the allergy register.
- 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.

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In the event of a serious allergic reaction and a child needing to be transported to hospital:

The preschool manager/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 parent(s) 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 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.
- Where a serious incident occurs and a child needs hospital treatment, Ofsted will be informed.