

## Parkway Preschool Allergy Policy



### **Be aware of common allergens**

We will make sure the staff are fully aware of Allergy UK's Factsheets which provide information on allergy, including triggers, symptoms, management and treatment.

### **Collaborate with the parents/carers**

Working closely with the family of an allergic child is crucial so making sure we have the child's most up-to-date medical information and for providing peace of mind for the parent/carer, is essential.

We will:

- Identify children with allergies at point of enrolment/signing up
- Ask parents for information on their child's allergy before they enrol/join the setting
- Write an Allergy/Health Care Plan using information from parents.
- Let the parent know that all staff will be made aware of which children have allergy, what the triggers are and the medication that they need

### **Keep an emergency medical kit for each child . We will:**

- Make sure that parents provide an emergency medical kit for their child containing any medication required
- Have an alert system for expiry dates of each child's adrenaline autoinjector to make sure that it is still in date

### **We will ask all parents to cooperate**

- Explain to other parents the risk and potential consequences of food allergens being brought into the setting

- Ask parents to avoid bringing any food into the setting outside of lunchboxes, for example leaving snacks in their child's bag

### **Keep staff informed and trained**

- Best practice in Early Years settings is to display a list of children with their photo and details of their allergy anywhere that food is prepared or served
- Train all staff in allergy and anaphylaxis first aid, which includes the use of adrenaline auto-injectors
- Training can be arranged through your health visitor, school nursing teams or through paediatric allergy clinics
- This training should be updated on a regular basis
- Make sure that somebody trained in administering emergency medication is on site at all times if needed. **We usually do not administer medicines except in emergencies.**
- Discuss each allergic child's individual needs during training sessions
- Make sure that medication's easily accessible and that all staff know where emergency medical kits are kept (not in a locked cupboard)
- **Write an emergency response plan that describes exactly what to do and who to contact in the event that a child has an allergic reaction**
- Put in place a system for informing temporary staff of medical information relating to any child, it is important that this information includes a picture so that the child can be easily identified by new staff

### **Reducing the risk of an allergic reaction**

- Label cups, bottles, soothers, plates etc. if they're used for a child with a severe allergy
- Make sure that all stored food is labelled and containers are thoroughly cleaned before each use
- Read all food labels and be extra vigilant at all times when serving food
- If lunch boxes are brought into the setting, check them for allergens before they are given to the children and make sure all parents are aware of any known allergens, asking for their cooperation in avoiding these
- We adopt a 'no sharing' policy if food is brought into the setting from home such as lunch boxes
- We make sure hand washing is encouraged for all children before and after meals or snacks to avoid cross contamination
- Encourage children with allergies to check with an adult before accepting any food or taking part in activities in which allergens may be present
- If a child has latex allergy, check art equipment (e.g. rubbers, paints) and balloons for latex content
- Offer the food allergic child safe alternatives at mealtimes

### **Avoid using food treats**

If we have a child with food allergies in our setting, we will avoid using food treats where possible. We may use non-food rewards to be inclusive of children with food allergy, and to minimise risk.

### **Be aware of the signs of a reaction**

All the staff should be aware of these signs, especially the visual signs when caring for a child not yet speaking:

- Swelling of tongue and/or throat
- Difficulty in swallowing or speaking
- Wheeze or persistent cough or severe asthma
- Difficult or noisy breathing
- Stomach cramps or vomiting after eating a food or an insect sting
- Dizziness / collapse / loss of consciousness (due to a drop in blood pressure) / floppiness in babies
- Vocal changes (hoarse voice)

[Allergy factsheets | Anaphylaxis UK](#)

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