



Non-Food Allergy and Allergic Reaction Policy

The health and safety of all children in attendance at Loversall Farm Day Nursery will always be our priority. We understand that some children can have allergic reactions to a variety of sources including:

- Food
- Animals
- Chemicals
- Medication
- Insect stings/bites
- Latex
- Mould

Signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction

- A red raised rash (known as hive or urticaria) anywhere on the body
- A tingling or itchy feeling in the mouth
- Swelling of the lips, tongue, face or eyes
- Stomach pains or vomiting

These signs and symptoms can also happen on their own. Children may have other medical needs that can worsen the symptoms of an allergic reaction, for example, Asthma, particularly if the Asthma is not well controlled.

The types of allergens

Food

Children will display symptoms of a food allergy if they consume or are in contact (where this is a contact allergy) the identified source which may be a specific ingredient or through cross-contamination.

(please refer to our food allergy and food intolerance policy)

Medication

Many medicines including: vaccinations, insulin, antibiotics, pain relief, anti-inflammatory medication and anaesthetic can cause an allergic reaction. Anaphylaxis UK highlights that people can suddenly develop allergic reactions to medication even when they have taken the medication for years.

Insect stings/bites

For children who are allergic to insect stings/bites, reactions can include a large swelling at the site of the sting/bite but a reaction can often result in an anaphylaxis episode.

Latex

A latex allergy is an allergy to natural rubber latex which is used in medical equipment as well as everyday products

Loversall Farm Day Nursery will do its utmost to prevent children experiencing an allergic reaction, however there may be times where children not know to have an allergy experience an allergic reaction. The following procedures will support staff to keep children as safe as possible:

- We will carry out an initial meeting with parents prior to a child commencing at nursery, to ascertain their medical history/conditions, both long or short term, including if children are diagnosed with any known allergies
- All information gained will be recorded and shared with all staff so they are fully aware of any triggers and the treatment required should a child show signs of an allergic reaction
- An allergy action plan will be completed for all children with a known allergy
- Wherever appropriate Loversall Farm Day Nursery will work with external partner agencies
- Parents will be expected to provide nursery with any medication needed by the child to treat an allergic reaction. This may include antihistamines and/or autoinjectors (e.g. EpiPen)
- Where a child is prescribed an autoinjector, we will request that the parents provide two so a second autoinjector can be administered should the first not have the desired effect
- Where a child who is admitted to nursery has a prescribed autoinjector, external training will be sought to ensure safe and appropriate administration. However, all staff with paediatric first aid will have had this training as part of their course
- Autoinjectors will be stored in the child's base room where the child is to prevent any delay in the medication being administered. All stored autoinjectors will be stored out of the reach of children
- Where children with known allergies are taken on a walk, their medication will also be taken with them and will form part of a PEEP (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan)
- For children with food allergies, we will follow our comprehensive food allergy and food intolerance policy and procedure
- Children prescribed antibiotics for the first time will be expected to remain at home for the first 24 hours

- Antibiotics will be kept in their original container, bagged and stored in a lidded box in a specified area of the fridge
- When administering antibiotics, staff will administer this in a safe place away from any other children known to have an allergy to antibiotics/penicillin
- Staff members known to have an allergy to antibiotics/penicillin, will not be permitted to be involved in any part of the administration process including the witnessing of administration
- Only non-latex gloves will be used when carrying out intimate care routines or dealing with accidents/incidents involving bodily fluids
- At the point of registration (for children over 12 months) we will seek parental consent to administer Piriton in the case of an emergency
- Once a child reaches 12 months of age emergency Piriton consent will then be sought from the child's parent
- Where emergency Piriton is needed, regardless of consent, a practitioner will make a telephone call to the child's parents asking their permission to administer and explaining the reasons why. If parents are uncontactable and written consent is in place, the management team will make the decision to administer
- Where emergency Piriton is administered an emergency Piriton form will be completed and shared with the parents and parent signature sought at the point of collection
- All emergency Piriton is stored within the First Aid cabinet located in the downstairs office
- Piriton administration will always be in line with the manufacturers instructions
- Loversall Farm Day Nursery is a 'no nut nursery'. Bepanthen nappy barrier cream will not be applied as an active ingredient in this cream in Almond oil. Parents will be requested to supply a different cream
- Laundry will only be washed using Fairy non-biological soap powder. Due to children's delicate skin fabric conditioners will not be used
- All cleaning products used are COSHH recorded and only a mild, diluted Milton solution is used for cleaning areas when children are present
- Spray air fresheners are not used in any of the children's rooms when children are present
- All cleaning products are locked away and out of the reach of children
- Hygiene routines are an important part of everyday routines
- When caring for the nursery animals, hygiene routines are consistently practiced
- Children with egg allergies will not be directly involved in the care of the nursery chickens, including the collection of the eggs
- Staff will inform management of any allergies they may have as part of the comprehensive induction processes, or thereafter should an allergy develop whilst in employment

Procedures to follow should an allergic reaction take place

- Where a child has an allergic reaction, a paediatric first aid trained member of staff will act quickly and administer the appropriate treatment. Part of the registration process will ask parents of children over one year old, for consent to administer emergency Piriton. **IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION ONLY. STAFF MUST ENSURE THEY CHECK THE AGE OF THE CHILD AND ADMINISTER THE DOSAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THE BOTTLE. AN EMERGENCY BOTTLE OF PIRITON IS LOCATED IN THE MEDICATION CABINET IN THE OFFICE. WHERE EMERGENCY PIRITON IS ADMINISTERED IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARENTS COLLECT THEIR CHILD WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.**
- Any administration of Piriton will be recorded in line with the content of the administration of medication policy and procedure. Any allergic reaction will be recorded on an incident form and shared with parents at the point of collection. This will be signed by staff and a signature must be included from the parent and or carer.
- If treatment requires specialist administration, for e.g. an autoinjector (Epipen), then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will receive specific medical training to enable them to administer the medication safely. However, the paediatric first aid training always includes how to administer an autoinjector
- For children diagnosed with an allergy, where treatment is via an autoinjector, parents will be advised to bring at least one autoinjector into the nursery and this will be stored in an emergency first aid box located near to the room the child accesses. Staff and management will regularly check the date on the autoinjector. If the date is due to expire the child's key person will inform the parents, the out of date medication will be handed back to the parent to dispose of the medication safely.
- If the allergic reaction is severe a member of staff will administer the autoinjector (if the child has one) and call for an ambulance immediately. If the child has two autoinjectors and after five minutes of administering the first there is no improvement, the second autoinjector will be administered. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A MEMBER OF STAFF TRANSPORT THE SICK CHILD TO HOSPITAL IN THEIR OWN CAR.**

- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, we will make contact with the child's parent/carer and arrange to meet them at the nursery if within an acceptable timescale, or at the hospital if time restrictions apply.
- The most appropriate member of staff must accompany the child to hospital and take with them the child's registration form, relevant medication sheets, child's comforter, nappies and wipes. The member of staff will also take a list of food/drink consumed whilst at the nursery. Once at the hospital the member of staff will remain with the child until the arrival of the child's parents, the child's care will then be passed to the parents and the member of staff will return to nursery. When the ambulance arrives the staff member will provide any information of any medication already administered, for e.g. Piriton and or autoinjector, along with the time and amount administered. Wherever possible the child will be accompanied to hospital by their named key person, should this not be appropriate a member of staff familiar to the child will accompany them.
- Staff must remain calm at all times; children who witness an allergic reaction may well be affected by it and may need lots of reassurance from their key worker where possible. Staff members within the room would, where possible, will take the other children away from the situation to a different room within the nursery, whilst maintaining appropriate ratios in accordance with the EYFS Statutory Framework. Additional support will be arranged for staff if this is needed following any event.
- All incidents will be recorded, shared and signed by parents at the earliest opportunity.
- Ofsted will be informed of any significant event, in line with their guidance of what substitutes an emergency

PLEASE REMEMBER ALLERGIC REACTIONS ARE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

In the event of a medical emergency an ambulance will be called without delay. A full investigation will be carried out following such an incident.

Staff Allergies

The management and staff team must be made aware of staff colleagues who have allergies. The staff team should also be aware of what constitutes an emergency and the procedures to follow. All staff must complete an emergency details form during the first day of their induction.

This form will include a space to record any allergies/medication etc. Once complete the form will be stored confidentially and securely in the staff members personnel file.

Where staff have autoinjectors these must be stored in accordance with manufacturers instructions, must be out of reach of children at all times, whilst being easily accessible in an emergency situation.

This policy was adopted on	May 2016
Signed on behalf of the nursery	
Signed by nursery owner	
Date of next review	September 2026