



ALLERGY POLICY

Statement of Intent:

This policy is concerned with a whole Pre-School approach to the health care and management of those members of the Pre-School community suffering from specific allergies. Threemilestone Pre-school are aware that all who attend may have special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies, intolerances and health needs. We believe these should be taken seriously and dealt with in a professional and appropriate way. Whilst we are not in a position to guarantee a completely allergen free environment, we identify potential hazards and implement reasonable control measures to remove or reduce the risks.

Before a child is admitted to the setting, we obtain information relating to special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies, intolerances and special health requirements on our Registration Form which asks parents to give full details. Where a specific food allergy/intolerance has been identified, we carry out a Risk Assessment and ask parents/carers to complete An Allergy Action Plan to include advice from other professionals if appropriate. This Plan must be in place prior to the child attending the setting so that suitable provisions can be made before their first day in the setting.

Aim

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

Method:

Parents Role:

- Our Registration Form asks all parents/carers to complete written records giving details of any medical conditions, allergies, intolerances, special dietary requirements and preferences before attending the Pre-school.
- If a child has an identified food allergy, intolerance or medical condition such as coeliac disease, we will complete a Risk Assessment and an Allergy Action Plan/Healthcare Plan in conjunction with parents/carers and other healthcare professionals, where possible. These Plans will set out our procedures for meeting the child's needs within the setting to ensure that the child has full access to provision within the setting, without compromising their health and safety. This information is reviewed regularly with parents/carers.
- If a child has a severe allergy requiring an Epi-pen, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide the setting with up-to-date medication/equipment which is clearly labelled for their child and which has been prescribed by the child's GP. A Medication Consent Form must also be completed and signed by parents.

- Parents/carers are requested to let us know as soon as possible of any change in a child's medical condition or if new allergies or intolerances evolve during their child's time at the setting so that suitable procedures are put in place to ensure their safety.
- Children requiring life-saving medication will not be allowed to attend without it.
- Parents/carers are required to provide up-to-date emergency contact information.
- It is the responsibility of the parents/carer to ensure that the contents of their child's packed lunch are safe for them to consume.
- Parents/carers are requested not to bring in food that contains (or may contain) nuts.
- Parents will be asked to liaise with the setting about the appropriateness of foods that are served for snack and if any food related activities are undertaken.
- Parents/carers sign a Medical Emergency Consent as part of the Registration Form giving permission for Threemilestone Pre-school permission to seek emergency medical care for their child if necessary.
- If the setting has need to call the emergency services and the parents/carers have not arrived by the time an ambulance takes a casualty to hospital, a member of Staff will accompany the child.
- All staff are DBS checked and registered on the update service.

Setting's Role:

- Upon determining that a child attending the Pre-school has a special dietary requirement, preference, allergy, intolerance or a medical condition, the setting will ensure all staff are made aware of these prior to a child attending the setting and that a list is displayed in the kitchen.
- All staff will be made aware of any child with an allergy or intolerance, what the triggers are and the medication that is needed.
- Food allergens are identified on the snacks provided by pre-school and parents are asked to check these if their child has a food allergy, intolerance, medical condition or food preference.
- When a child attending Pre-school has a severe allergy, a team meeting, which may include parents and other professionals, will be set up as soon as possible so that all staff are aware of a child's needs. The meeting will include information relating to known triggers, type of reaction and action to be taken including administering medication.
- If an Allergy Action Plan is appropriate, the setting will display this with the child's photo detailing all relevant information provided by parents and actions to be taken in the event of an emergency.
- All staff will also be required to read and initial the Risk Assessment written if a food allergy or intolerance is identified which details exactly what to do and who to contact in the event that a child has an allergic reaction. Risk Assessments are maintained in each child's individual folder stored in a locked filing cabinet in the main room.

- Staff will be trained to recognise the 14 most common allergens, be aware of the symptoms and treatment for allergies and anaphylaxis as well as knowing that new allergies and intolerances can appear at any time.
- The setting undertakes good food hygiene principles to reduce the risk of cross-contamination and all staff have Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificates.
- At least one member of staff with a full paediatric first-aid qualification is always present during the session who has completed allergy and anaphylaxis first aid including the use of adrenaline auto-injectors.
- Children will be supervised carefully, within sight and hearing of a member of staff at meal and snack times who will also ensure that food is not shared with or touched by a child with an allergy/intolerance to avoid cross-contamination of allergens.
- Staff preparing snack for a child with an identified allergy/intolerance will use cleanly washed equipment and utensils, labelled cups and plates to serve food for specific children with an identified allergy or food intolerance.
- A named individual, (the playleader in charge), will be responsible for checking the ingredients in all foods and drinks before they are served to a child with allergies or intolerances to ensure they are suitable.
- The setting will ensure that foods used in curriculum activities meet the child's requirements including checking for 'traces' of allergens and checking foods where the recipe may have changed over time. Generally, no nuts or nut products are used within the setting.
- For all food related activities the pre-school undertakes, we will ensure that any allergens are identified in the ingredients and labelled on food bags going home in line with 'Natasha's Law' to protect other family members.
- Allergen information is recorded by the setting of foods used for snack and activities and shared with those parents of children with special dietary requirements, preferences, allergies and intolerances including any products that may contain 'traces' of allergens.
- The setting is happy for parents to provide snacks in a labelled container for their child where a known allergy exists if they feel this will help keep their child safe.
- Lunch boxes brought into the setting will be checked for all allergens before they are given to children at lunch time so a child with a known allergen can be seated safely on another table if necessary.
- Lunch boxes are stored safely in the kitchen and children not allowed access to these until placed out at lunch times. After lunch, packed lunch bags are kept in the cloakroom safely, so they are not accessible by any child.
- All tables are cleaned before and after eating.
- After lunch has finished, the floor is hoovered to remove any food debris.
- All children are also encouraged to wash their hands before and after snack/lunch time to avoid cross contamination as far as possible.
- The parents/carers of children with identified allergies/intolerances will be encouraged to give permission for the staff to explain to other parents the risk and potential consequences of food allergens and seek their co-operation to avoid these allergens as far as possible in foods brought into the setting.

- Practitioners will make all child attending the setting aware of other children's allergies and teach them that touching another person's food could make them or other people seriously ill.
- Emergency Medication is stored out of reach in the emergency grab bag situated in the kitchen which is easily accessible. In the event of an emergency evacuation, all staff are aware of the need to take this bag when leaving the building together with emergency contact details.
- The wearing of a medic-alert bracelet is allowed by the Pre-School.
- Any incidents related to allergies, intolerances or any other medical conditions will be recorded on an incident form. We will also record when medication has been administered following our setting's policies. All completed forms will be shared with parents/carers as soon as possible and they will be asked sign as acknowledgement of these.

This policy was adopted by Threemilestone Pre-school CIO

Signed for and behalf of the pre-school

TRUSTEE (Sarah Wallis)