

# Abacus Nursery - Allergies and Allergic Reactions

EYFS: 3.47, 3.45
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At Abacus Nursery we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our robust procedures 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:-

As part of our 'New Child' paperwork tick sheets are used when a child starts who has an allergy/medical condition (including dietary). This ensures all the relevant precautions/tasks are carried out to minimise the risks and safeguard the child. This includes, Specific paperwork to collect information including any signs and symptoms, action to be taken if required and if any medication is needed (This information is added to the child's Wellbeing sheet) and any further arrangements we put in place i.e. a placemat for mealtimes to remind staff of a child's allergy/added to the key notes.

Through key notes staff are made aware of any new child starting with an allergy and the need to read their allergy information record. In this way all staff are aware of every child's signs and symptoms and what they need to do should the child have an allergic reaction. This is also discussed at the next staff meeting.

All medical notes are kept in the child's filing cabinet divider. Downstairs in a bathroom cupboard, a blue folder holds all the Medical care plans for downstairs children. Upstairs these are kept on a shelf in the bathroom. These are checked monthly by our medical officer to ensure they remain accurate and any medication is in date. Named cloth bags are used to store, for quick access each child's inhaler/epi pen etc. A copy of the relevant paperwork is also kept here. Dietary records are kept on the Dietary notice board in the kitchen.

Risk assessments are carried out for children with life-threatening allergies.

Please see our Nutrition and Mealtimes policy for more 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. Parents would be informed immediately to allow them the option of collecting earlier. The incident would be recorded on the appropriate paperwork and then signed by a parent at the end of the day. This is then stored in the child's individual file and logged in their Wellbeing sheet.

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.

#### Food Information Regulations 2014:-

From 13 December 2014 We have identified and listed when the 14 allergens are used as ingredients in any of our dishes on our weekly menus where we also list individual children's allergies and alternatives we will provide in line with the Food Information Regulations 2014 (FIR). Our weekly menu is on the notice board in the porch for all parents to read.

In the case of an severe allergic reaction we would:-

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe.
- We would NOT attempt to transport the sick child in a staff members vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a member of the management team would 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 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 Ruth immediately of the situation
- 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.