

Allergy Policy

Policy Created: 13th March 2025

An allergy is a reaction the body has to a particular food or substance.

Allergies are very common. They're thought to affect more than one in four people in the UK at some point in their lives. They are particularly common in children. Some allergies go away as a child gets older, although many are lifelong. Adults can develop allergies to things they weren't previously allergic to. Most allergic reactions are mild, but occasionally a severe reaction called anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock can occur. This is a medical emergency and needs urgent treatment. I ask all parents to advise me on the registration forms of any known allergies. I may provide activities for the children to experiment with different foods, natural resources, foams etc. If your child has any known allergies, I will avoid anything that could knowingly trigger an allergic reaction when I plan my activities.

If your child does react to anything whilst in my care, I will complete an allergy form for you to sign when you collect your child, this will advise:

- The time it happened
- What they were playing with or eating
- Symptoms of the reaction
- What treatment was given
- How the child responded
- If there is a skin reaction and visible I will take a picture of the affected area, I will show you the picture and make a copy available to you. I will also keep a copy on your child's record

If the reaction is not severe but I feel it requires medical treatment I will phone you straight away to collect your child. If I feel the reaction is severe, I will call for an ambulance.

I am aware a child may be having a severe allergic reaction if they are:

- Having difficulty breathing
- Lips, mouth, face are swollen
- If they collapse

In the event of a child having an allergic reaction in my care I will follow the procedure below:

- I will not move the child, because this could make it worse
- Call 999 immediately, describe what has happened, I will explain I think the child is having a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis
- Ask the child (where appropriate) if they carry an adrenaline pen and if necessary, help them retrieve it. If they are struggling to self-administer then I will assist them.
- Administering an adrenaline pen was part of my First Aid Training.