

## Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, they must be healthy, balanced and nutritious.



## 6.5 Food and drink

### Policy statement

Our provision regards snack and lunch times as an important part of our day. Eating represents a social time for children and adults and helps children to learn about healthy eating. At snack and lunch times, we aim to provide nutritious food, which meets the children's individual dietary needs.

### Procedures

We follow these procedures to promote healthy eating in our setting.

- Before a child starts to attend the setting, we find out from parents their children's dietary needs and preferences, including any allergies. (See the Managing Children who are Sick, Infectious or with Allergies policy.)
- Parents record information about each child's dietary needs in her/his registration record and sign the record to signify that it is correct.
- We regularly consult with parents to ensure that our records of their children's dietary needs - including any allergies - are up-to-date. Parents sign the up-dated record to signify that it is correct.
- We display current information about individual children's dietary needs so that all staff and volunteers are fully informed about them in the **Kitchen**.
- We implement systems to ensure that children receive only food and drink that is consistent with their dietary needs and preferences as well as their parent's wishes.
- Parents are asked to provide a piece of fruit and/or veg when their child attends.
- We provide nutritious food for snacks, avoiding large quantities of saturated fat, sugar and salt and artificial additives, preservatives and colourings.
- We include foods from the diet of each of the children's cultural backgrounds, providing children with familiar foods and introducing them to new ones.
- We take care not to provide food containing nuts or nut products and are especially vigilant where we have a child who has a known allergy to nuts.

- Through discussion with parents and research reading by staff, we obtain information about the dietary rules of the religious groups to which children and their parents belong, and of vegetarians and vegans, and about food allergies. We take account of this information in the provision of food and drinks.
- We require staff to show sensitivity in providing for children's diets and allergies. Staff do not use a child's diet or allergy as a label for the child or make a child feel singled out because of her/his diet or allergy.
- We organise lunch and snack times so that they are social occasions in which children and staff participate.
- We use lunch and snack times to help children to develop independence through making choices, serving food and drink and feeding themselves.
- We provide children with utensils that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and that take account of the eating practices in their cultures.
- We have fresh drinking water constantly available for the children. We inform the children about how to obtain the water and that they can ask for water at any time during the day.
- We inform parents who provide food for their children about the storage facilities available in the setting.
- In order to protect children with food allergies, we discourage children from sharing and swapping their food with one another.
- We provide a name label for children's lunch boxes to prevent mix ups.
- For children who drink milk, we provide semi-skimmed pasteurised milk.

#### *Packed lunches*

We:

- ensure perishable contents of packed lunches are refrigerated or contain an ice pack to keep food cool;
- inform parents of our policy on healthy eating;
- inform parents of whether we have facilities to microwave cooked food brought from home;
- encourage parents to provide sandwiches with a healthy filling, fruit, and milk based deserts such as yoghurt or crème fraîche where we can only provide cold food from home.
- encourage independence by asking parents to provide containers their children can open.
- discourage packed lunch contents that consist largely of crisps, processed foods, sweet drinks and sweet products such as cakes or biscuits.
- provide children, bringing packed lunches, with plates, cups and cutlery if needed; and
- ensure staff sit with children to eat their lunch so that the mealtime is a social occasion.

#### *Food Poisoning*

- We notify Ofsted of any food poisoning affecting two or more children looked after on the premises as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident.

## Legal framework

- Regulation (EC) 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs

## Further guidance

- Safer Food, Better Business (Food Standards Agency 2008)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of provider)

Held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Signed on behalf of the governing body \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_

Role of signatory (e.g. chair) \_\_\_\_\_



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