

40. Allergies, Allergic Reactions and Adrenaline Auto-Injector Devices (AAIs)

At **CHIGWELL AND HAINAULT SYNAGOGUE NURSERY** we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our aims are to 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. We encourage our Nursery to take an allergy awareness approach and an awareness of all allergens. The more staff who have an understanding of allergies, can recognise the signs of anaphylaxis and know what to do in an emergency, the safer all children with allergies in the Nursery will be.

Our procedures

- Our staff are made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in case of an unknown or first reaction in a child. These may include a rash or hives, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pain, swelling of the mouth or tongue, swelling to the airways to the lungs, wheezing and anaphylaxis
- We ask parents to share all information about allergic reactions and allergies on child's registration form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after registration
- We share all information with all staff and keep an allergy register
- Where a child has a known allergy, the nursery manager will carry out a full Allergy Risk Assessment Procedure with the parent prior to the child starting the nursery and shares this assessment with all staff
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy is prepared in an area where there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts
- The manager and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery that may harm them. This may include designing an appropriate menu or substituting specific snacks on the current nursery menu
- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. Where deemed appropriate, staff will sit with children who have allergies and where age/stage appropriate staff will discuss food allergies and the potential risks
- 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. We will inform parents and record the information in the incident book and on the allergy register
- , We will ensure that at least two members of staff working directly with the child/ren known to have allergic reactions and use for example an EpiPen,

will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.

- The treatment for anaphylaxis is an injection of adrenaline (also called epinephrine) into the mid-outer thigh muscle. Children at risk of anaphylaxis are often prescribed adrenaline auto-injector devices (AAIs). AAIs are designed to be easy to administer, and staff will be trained to administer them in an emergency. Regular training is needed to ensure correct technique. If AAIs have been prescribed, they should always be available – with no exceptions. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) recommends that two adrenaline auto-injectors should ‘be available at all times’. This is in case one is broken or misfires, or a second injection is needed before emergency help arrives. Anaphylaxis UK agrees with this view.

We display our menus on the Parent Information Board and on our FB group page and will identify if any of the 14 allergens are used as ingredients in any of our snack and lunch times.

Transporting children to hospital procedures

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. WILL NOT attempt to transport the sick child in own vehicle
- Whilst waiting for the ambulance, 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 a member of the management team immediately
- Remain calm at all times. 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.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
12/08/2024	<i>Melanie Kaye</i>	12/08/2026