



**At Stretton Lodge, 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.**

## **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 their child's registration form and allergy information form.
- We share all information with all staff and keep an allergy register in each room and first aid box.
- Where a child has a severe known allergy, the nursery manager will carry out a full Allergy Action Plan with the parent prior to the child starting the nursery and share this with all staff
- All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy is prepared so that there is no chance of contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type.
- The manager, nursery cook 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 meals on the current nursery menu
- Seating will be monitored for children with severe 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.
- We will inform parents and record the information in the incident form.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, 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.

## **Transporting children to hospital procedures**

The nursery manager/staff member must:

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe. DO NOT attempt to transport the sick child in your 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

## **Forest school**

- The Forest School Leader will keep a copy of relevant information regarding individual children's existing allergies, and carry medicine/treatment when necessary.



- In the case that a child has an allergic reaction during a Forest School session the Forest School Leader and staff will follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

**Our Paediatric First Aid training includes use of EpiPen and AED defibrillator**