



Allergies and Allergic Reaction Policy

Updated September 2024

At Briar Dene Childcare, we are committed to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all children in our care, including those with allergies. We understand the importance of managing allergies and minimizing the risk of allergic reactions in the nursery environment. This policy outlines the procedures for identifying, preventing, and responding to allergies and allergic reactions.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of and understand how to identify, manage, and respond to allergies.
- Protect children with known allergies from exposure to allergens while in the nursery.
- Establish clear procedures for responding to allergic reactions and emergencies.
- Promote awareness and communication between staff, parents, and carers about the management of allergies.

Identification and Communication of Allergies

Parental Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to inform the nursery of any known allergies their child has upon registration. This includes food allergies, environmental allergies (e.g., pollen, dust mites), and other allergies (e.g., medications, latex). Parents must provide written documentation from a healthcare professional if applicable.

Allergy Records:

All children with allergies will have an individual allergy record stored securely in their file. This record will include:

- The specific allergens the child is allergic to.
- Symptoms of an allergic reaction.
- The prescribed treatment or emergency plan, if any.
- Contact details for the child's healthcare provider.

Allergy records will be shared with relevant staff members, ensuring that all individuals working with the child are informed.

Allergy Information Display:

A list of children with allergies, including their specific allergens, will be displayed in the nursery in a confidential and easily accessible location. This information will be updated regularly and reviewed with staff.

Parent Communication:

Parents will be encouraged to update the nursery with any changes to their child's allergy status, treatment plan, or medications. The nursery will also communicate with parents about any incidents or concerns regarding allergies.

Preventing Allergic Reactions:**Food Allergies:**

- The nursery will take all necessary precautions to prevent children from encountering allergens, especially during mealtimes. Children with food allergies will be given a safe, allergy-friendly meal prepared according to their dietary needs.
- Parents of children with food allergies must provide clear instructions regarding safe foods and any precautions necessary for meal preparation.
- Staff will check all food labels before serving any snacks or meals to children, ensuring they are free from allergens.

Environmental Allergies:

- The nursery will take steps to minimise environmental allergens in the setting. This includes regularly cleaning to reduce dust, controlling the presence of pets, and keeping windows closed during high pollen seasons if necessary.
- Children with specific environmental allergies will be seated away from potential triggers (e.g., near windows during pollen season) to minimise exposure.

Personal Items:

- Children with allergies will be encouraged to bring in their own items, such as snacks, drinks, or any special care items (e.g., epinephrine auto-injectors), to ensure that they have access to safe alternatives.
- Staff will ensure that no shared toys, snacks, or equipment encounter allergens.

Responding to Allergic Reactions:**Recognising Symptoms of an Allergic Reaction:**

Staff will be trained to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction, which can range from mild to severe. Symptoms include:

- Skin reactions (hives, swelling, redness)
- Gastrointestinal issues (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea)
- Respiratory issues (wheezing, difficulty breathing)
- Anaphylaxis (severe swelling, difficulty breathing, loss of consciousness)

First Aid and Emergency Plan:

- In the event of an allergic reaction, staff will follow the child's individual emergency plan, which will include instructions on medication administration (e.g., epinephrine auto-injector) and any other necessary actions.
- For mild reactions, the child will be monitored closely, and the parent or guardian will be contacted immediately. In more severe cases, staff will call emergency services (e.g., 999) and follow the child's emergency care plan, which may include the use of an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen) or other prescribed medication.

Training for Staff:

All staff will receive training on identifying and responding to allergic reactions, including how to use an epinephrine auto-injector and how to perform CPR if necessary. Regular refresher training will be provided to ensure staff are up to date on allergy management procedures.

Documentation of Incidents:

Any allergic reactions, whether mild or severe, will be documented in an incident report, including the actions taken and any follow-up required. Parents will be informed immediately, and an incident report will be shared with them. A copy will be kept in the child's file.

Medications and Emergency Care:**Administering Medication:**

If a child requires medication (e.g., antihistamines, epinephrine) for their allergies, the parent or guardian must complete a medication consent form, authorising staff to administer the medication as prescribed. Medications will be stored securely, and staff will ensure that medication is readily accessible in case of an emergency.

Emergency Contact Information:

Parents must provide up-to-date emergency contact information and details of any medical professionals involved in the care of the child's allergy. In the case of a serious allergic reaction, the child's emergency contact and healthcare provider will be notified immediately.

Review and Monitoring:

- This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains in line with best practices and current health guidelines.
- Regular audits will be conducted to ensure compliance with allergy management procedures, and any incidents or concerns will be reviewed to assess the effectiveness of the policy.
- Parents will be consulted and kept informed of any changes to this policy.

Briar Dene Childcare is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all children, including those with allergies. Through clear communication, thorough training, and strict allergy management procedures, we aim to minimise the risk of allergic reactions and respond swiftly and appropriately when they occur.

Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed annually (September 2025), or as needed, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of the children, families, and staff within the nursery.

Name:	Position:	Signed:	Date:
David Birkbeck	Owner		
Kayleigh Tydd	Director		
Greg Bamber	Nominated Individual		
Zoe Tydd	Manager & DSL		
Abbie Lloyd	Deputy Manager		
Jade Radcliffe	Second Deputy Manager		
Pamela Lear	Practitioner		
Diane Jones	Practitioner		
Emily Gautrey	Practitioner		