



## Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

### Allergies and allergic reactions

At Stepping Stones Nursery we are aware that children may have or develop an allergy resulting in an allergic reaction. Our aim is 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.

### Nursery Procedures

- Our practitioners are made aware of the signs and symptoms of a possible allergic reaction in the case of an unknown or a first reaction in a child. These may include a rash, hives, nausea, stomach pains, diarrhoea, itchy skin, runny eyes, shortness of breath, chest pains, swelling of the tongue or the mouth, swelling to the airways or lungs, wheezing or anaphylaxis.
- We ask our parents to share all information about an allergies & reactions on the child's Admission Form and to inform our practitioners of any allergies discovered after registration.
- We share all the information with our Practitioners and any key information are kept within the child's base room.
- Where a child has a known allergy, management will carry out a risk assessment procedure with the parents prior to the child starting the nursery and will inform the practitioners within the child's base room. This will include, a specialised menu, care plans or any specific medication the child may need whilst in our care.
- If a child has an allergic reaction for example to food, a bee or wasp sting, plants while at nursery, a practitioner will make every attempt to contact the child's parent. Where parents or other Emergency contacts on the child admission form cannot be contacted then the Nursery Manager/Deputy will take the decision as to whether the child is safe to have Emergency Piriton based on the information/consent form provided by parents. If the Nursery Manager decides that it is appropriate to administer a dose of nursery Piriton a Medication form will be completed and parents must sign it when they collect their child to acknowledge that medication has been given. We will still continue to make contact with the parents/emergency contacts provided to advise parents of the situation and for them to collect their child and seek medical advice.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an epipen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the child and the manager will have specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual child.

### Dietary Requirements:-

All food prepared for a child with a specific allergy will be prepared in an area that prevents contamination and served on equipment that has not been in contact with this specific food type, e.g. nuts. A copy of the child's specific menu will be kept in the kitchen & within the child's base room along with a dietary requirement sheet, this sheet must be signed by the Nursery cook & staff members before the meal is removed from the kitchen area. When the meal has arrived within the child's base room, the staff member must then sign the dietary requirement sheet before the meal is given to the child. A care plan will be placed within the child's base room with sign's & symptoms of an allergic reaction with emergency contact details of the child's parents.

### Transporting children to hospital Procedure

The Nursery Manager or a Practitioner must:-

- Call for an ambulance immediately if the allergic reaction is severe DO NOT attempt to transport the child in your own vehicle.
- Contact the child's parents and make arrangements to meet them at the hospital.
- A member of Management will accompany the child to the hospital, taking with them the child's admission form, medication sheets and the child's comforter (if applicable)



- Redeploy staff if necessary to ensure there is adequate staff deployment to care for remaining children. This may mean temporarily grouping the children together.
- Remain calm at all times. Children who have witnessed the incident may well be affected by it and may need reassurance. Also practitioners may require additional support following the incident.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
<i>November 2017</i>	<i>Adele Stone</i>	<i>November 2018</i>