

# Maple Minis

## Allergies and Allergic Reactions Policy

At Maple Minis we are aware that the babies and toddlers 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 baby 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 baby. 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 the nursery admission form and to inform staff of any allergies discovered after admission.
- We share all information with all staff and keep an allergy register which will be kept in the nursery.
- Where a child has a known allergy, the nursery nurses will carry out a full Allergy Risk Assessment Procedure with the parent prior to the baby starting nursery and share 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, nursery staff and parents will work together to ensure a child with specific food allergies receives no food at nursery other than what is provided by the parent.
- Seating will be monitored for children with allergies. Where deemed appropriate, staff will sit with children who have allergies. Other mums in the nursery will be made aware as they are each responsible for supervising their own baby over lunchtime.
- If a baby 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 on an incident form and on the allergy register.
- If an allergic reaction requires specialist treatment, e.g. an EpiPen, then at least two members of staff working directly with the baby and the manager will receive specific medical training to be able to administer the treatment to each individual baby.
- If a baby over the age of 1 year is entitled to a school meal, the weekly school menu is displayed in reception and kitchen staff will be consulted regarding the suitability of the food.

### 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, immediately inform the mum if she is on site in school. Telephone contact to be made if she is not present and arrangements to meet at

the hospital to be made. Admission form to be used for emergency contacts should mum not be contactable.

- Arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to accompany mum and baby 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 babies in nursery.
- Inform a member of the management team immediately
- Remain calm at all times. Babies 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 incident.

**Date of Policy** – April 2020

**Date of Review** – April 2022

**Signed**

**Nursery Manager** .....

**Chair of Management committee**.....