

ALLERGY POLICY

Please also refer to administration of medicines policy, health and hygiene policy food and drink policy, safeguarding and child protection policy.

Policy Statement: Box Pre School Playgroup is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all children in our care. We recognize that some children may have allergies that require special attention to ensure their well-being while attending our pre-school. This Allergy Policy outlines our approach to managing allergies to create a safe and supportive environment for all children.

Aim: Our primary aim is to:

1. Identify and manage allergies among children attending our pre-school.
2. Ensure the safety and well-being of children with allergies.
3. Raise awareness and educate staff, parents, and children about allergies.
4. Collaborate with parents/guardians to develop individualized allergy management plans for children with allergies.
5. Minimize the risk of allergen exposure within the pre-school setting.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Pre-School Management:** The pre-school management is responsible for overall policy implementation, staff training, and ensuring necessary resources are available to manage allergies effectively.
- **Staff:** All staff members are responsible for implementing the allergy policy, including recognizing symptoms of allergic reactions, following individualized allergy management plans, and maintaining communication with parents/guardians.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Parents/guardians are responsible for notifying the pre-school of their child's allergies, providing necessary medical documentation, and working collaboratively with the pre-school to develop and update individualized allergy management plans.

Procedures:

1. Identification of Allergies:

- Before a child is admitted to our setting we will obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and intolerances that the child has, and any special health requirements. This information will be shared with all staff involved in the preparing and handling of food. Checks are made at snack time and a log completed to confirm that the food being provided meets all the requirements for each child.
- We will have ongoing discussions with parents and/or carers and, where appropriate, health professionals to develop allergy action plans for managing any known allergies and intolerances. This information will be kept up to date and shared with staff. All staff are aware of the symptoms and treatments for allergies and anaphylaxis, the differences between allergies and intolerances and that children can develop allergies at any time.
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2. Individualized Allergy Management Plans and risk assessment:

- The pre-school will collaborate with parents/guardians to create individualized allergy management plans for children with allergies.
- These plans will include information on allergen avoidance, emergency contact information, and procedures for administering medication (e.g., epinephrine auto-injectors).
- A individual risk assessment will be drawn up for each child.

3. Allergen-Free Environment:

- The pre-school will maintain an allergen-free environment to the best of its ability but we cannot guarantee a completely allergen free environment. This includes promoting allergen awareness among staff, children, and parents/guardians.

4. Staff Training:

- All staff members will receive training on recognizing allergic reactions, administering medication (if required), and implementing allergy management plans.

5. Emergency Response:

- In case of an allergic reaction, staff will follow the child's individualized allergy management plan, which may include administering medication and seeking emergency medical assistance.

6. Communication:

- The pre-school will maintain open and transparent communication with parents/guardians regarding any allergy-related incidents or changes in the child's condition.

7. Food and Snacks:

- Food prepared by the preschool will be allergy free. We will inform other parents of the need to remove items from packed lunches if required. (e.g. severe nut allergy)

8. Outings

- Medications and the allergy management plan will be taken on all outings

9. Storage

- Medications and the allergy management plan will be stored alongside the first aid kit.

